DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 463 850 PS 030 265

AUTHOR	Finn, Carlen; Burgess, Beth
TITLE	The State of Our Children: Kids Count in Vermont. 2001 Data Book.
INSTITUTION	Vermont Children's Forum, Montpelier.
SPONS AGENCY	Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.
PUB DATE	2001-12-00
NOTE	117p.; For 1997 Data Book, see ED 416 029. Also supported by Vermont Department of Health, Division of Community Health and Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programs; Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity; and Vermont Campaign To End Childhood Hunger.
AVAILABLE FROM	Vermont KIDS COUNT, Vermont Children's Forum, P.O. Box 261, Montpelier, VT 05601 ($10). Tel: 802-229-6377; Fax: 802-229-4929; e-mail: vtkids@childrensforum.org; Web site: http://www.vtchildrensforum.org.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC05 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; At Risk Persons; Birth Weight; Births to Single Women; Child Abuse; Child Advocacy; *Child Health; Child Neglect; Child Welfare; *Children; *Counties; Day Care; Day Care Centers; Demography; Disabilities; Early Parenthood; Elementary Secondary Education; Infant Mortality; Lunch Programs; One Parent Family; Poverty; Prenatal Care; Public Policy; *Social Indicators; State Surveys; Statistical Surveys; Tables (Data); Trend Analysis; Violence; Welfare Recipients; *Well Being; Youth Problems
IDENTIFIERS	Arrests; Child Mortality; *Indicators; School Lunch Program; *Vermont

ABSTRACT

This KIDS COUNT data book examines trends in the well-being of Vermont's children. Following an introduction and executive summary, the statistical portrait is presented, based on 18 indicators of child well-being: (1) child poverty; (2) families with children, headed by a single parent; (3) national school lunch program enrollment; (4) children in families receiving ANFC; (5) children in families receiving food stamps; (6) women in the labor force; (7) child care need versus capacity; (8) new families at risk; (9) teens ages 15-19 not in school and not in labor force; (10) early prenatal care; (11) low birth-weight babies; (12) infant mortality; (13) births to teens; (14) child deaths; (15) teen deaths by accident, suicide, and homicide; (16) children and youth with disabilities; (17) children in state custody; and (18) child abuse and neglect. County-by-county statistical findings are presented comparing available data since 1988, as well as narratives explaining improving measures and deteriorating measures. Economic findings show decreased enrollment in ANFC and Food Stamp programs, while the number of new families at risk has increased. Positive health and safety findings include more use of early prenatal care and decreased infant mortality, births to teens, rate of child and teen deaths, and child abuse and neglect rates. The rate of low birth weight babies and delinquent custody cases show increases. The data book concludes with notes on statistics, methodology, and acknowledgments. (SD)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 463 8

The State of Our Children

2001 Data Book

Kids Count in Vermont

kids count

PS 030265

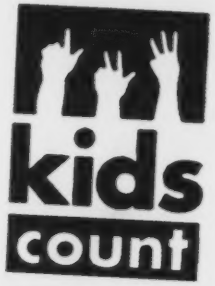
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Carlen Finn
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

2

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

3



**A report of Vermont KIDS COUNT,
a project of The Vermont Children's Forum,
funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation.**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Additional copies of
The 2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book
The State of Our Children: Kids Count in Vermont
are available for $10.00 each from:
Vermont KIDS COUNT
Vermont Children's Forum,
P.O. Box 261
Montpelier, VT 05601

Any or all portions of this report may be reproduced without prior permission,
provided the source is cited as:

The 2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book
The State of Our Children: Kids Count in Vermont
Vermont Children's Forum, December 2001

The State of Our Children

2001
Data Book

kids count

Kids Count in Vermont

Prepared by
The Vermont Children's Forum

Table of Contents

Introduction

About the Vermont Children's Forum and Vermont KIDS COUNT 4

How the *Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* Makes a Difference for Kids 4

New in the *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* 5

Introduction to the Data 5

Executive Summary 7

Findings 9

Economic Security

Child Poverty 10
Families with Children, Headed by a Single Parent 11
National School Lunch Program 12
Children Receiving ANFC 13
Children Receiving Food Stamps 13
Women in the Labor Force 14
Child Care Need vs. Capacity 14
New Families at Risk 15
Teens Ages 15-19 Not in School and Not in Labor Force 16

Health & Safety

Early Prenatal Care 17
Low Birth-Weight Babies 17
Infant Mortality 17
Births to Teens 19
Child Deaths 20
Teen Violent Deaths 20
Children and Youth with Disabilities 21
Children in Custody 22
Child Abuse and Neglect 24

County-By-County Findings

Addison 28
Bennington 30
Caledonia 32
Chittenden 34
Essex and Orleans 36
Franklin and Grand Isle 38
Lamoille 40
Orange 42
Rutland 44
Washington 46
Windham 48
Windsor 50

Appendix

Notes on Statistics and Methodology 52
Acknowledgments 56

Introduction

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home, such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity and equal dignity."

Eleanor Roosevelt

About the Vermont Children's Forum And Vermont KIDS COUNT

The Vermont Children's Forum (VCF) is the state's only research, education and advocacy organization focusing on the full spectrum of child and youth issues. A nonpartisan nonprofit since its establishment in 1983, VCF's mission has been to promote public policy that enhances the lives of children and youth in Vermont.

Originally planned as a four-year project, Vermont KIDS COUNT is now an established component of the Vermont Children's Forum. State KIDS COUNT projects collect and analyze data on child and youth risk factors, and produce reports and other educational materials that track the well-being of young people and their families. KIDS COUNT projects are in nearly every state and the District of Columbia.

Since Vermont KIDS COUNT began in 1992, the Vermont Children's Forum has created a KIDS COUNT database; published reports of social, economic, health and educational data; presented data information at community and state workshops; and used KIDS COUNT research for a number of VCF reports.

The Vermont KIDS COUNT Project was originated and continues to be primarily funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the largest funding institution dedicated to helping disadvantaged children. The Annie E. Casey Foundation also produces an annual national report, *KIDS COUNT Data Book, State Profiles of Child Well-being*. For a copy of the most recent report, please contact the Vermont Children's Forum or look on the Foundation's web site: www.aecf.org/KIDSCOUNT/.

Additional support for this *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* was provided by the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Community Health and Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programs; the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity; and the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger.

How the *Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* Makes A Difference for Kids

Local and state analysis is critical to identifying the well-being of Vermont children and families, which may be overshadowed by national studies that rank the status of Vermont children high compared to those in other states. The *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* offers a more in-depth look at the realities behind the headlines, by bringing attention to the needs of the state's young people and their families, through data reported at state and local levels.

The data books also help others make a difference for young people — serving as useful tools for local citizens, government and nonprofit groups, as well as for service agencies. Policy makers and state advocates use the data to increase public awareness and to inform their work on specific child and youth issues; citizens and community groups use it for grassroots organizing; service providers use the data books in program planning and grant writing; and educators use them to inform youth and get them involved in their own futures. We urge you to incorporate the research from Vermont KIDS COUNT into your

own activities on behalf of young people. Together, we can help advance state, community and individual efforts to enhance the lives of Vermont children and youth.

New in the *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book*

This *Data Book* will look slightly different from previous ones — some indicators have changed, a few are not included this year, and two new indicators have been added.

New Indicators

New indicators introduced this year include "Available Child Care vs. Need," which compares the number of each county's regulated child care openings with the estimated need for child care. Another new indicator is "Children with Special Health Care Needs." This data provides "ball park" estimates of the number of young people with physical, mental, and/or emotional disabilities in each county.

Changes to Indicators

The methods used to calculate some of the indicators have changed somewhat, to correspond to changes in the national KIDS COUNT data books.

- The "Children in Single-Parent Families" indicator has been replaced with "Families with Children, Headed by a Single Parent." The former indicator tracked the rates of children in these families, but did not indicate the proportion of families they represented. The new indicator will allow us to track the prevalence of this common family configuration, by measuring the rate of families headed by one parent.

- The "Child Poverty" indicator is now calculated using a different U.S. Census data series — one that provides better poverty estimates in small states. (See statistics and Methodology in the Appendix for more information on this and other changes.)

- The method for calculating the rate of "Births to Teen Women" also has changed to improve the accuracy of this indicator. The rate is now based on number of births to teens, out of the population of females of the same age (ages 15-17 for young teen women, and 15-19 for "all" teen women). The rate is now expressed as teen births per 1,000 females of the same age.

- In addition, the rates for "Children and Youth in Custody," and "Child Abuse and Neglect," are now expressed as "rate per 1,000 children of the same age, in the general population," rather than "per 10,000 children," as used in previous data books. This will make the results easier to understand in smaller counties whose child and youth populations are under 10,000.

Finally, a few indicators have not been included because new data was not available in time for this data book. They are "Median Wage," "Child Racial and Ethnic Diversity," and "Educational Attainment of Adults." The data on "Number of Dropouts" will be presented in a separate, youth report.

Introduction to the Data

Vermont KIDS COUNT does not conduct surveys or gather direct data. Vermont Indicators are collected from a number of reliable sources, including the U.S. Bureau of the Census and Vermont state agencies. KIDS COUNT data are presented on a state, county, or school district level.

Indicators

Throughout this book, the term "indicator" describes data that are related to outcomes of well-being of children, youth and families. An indicator can be measured in terms of number, rate, and change over time.

Number

The number is the actual count of events for an indicator.

Rate

A rate is the relationship between the number of events (such as early prenatal care) to the total related population (new mothers).

Rates are used for comparing data across geographic areas (such as counties) or over periods of time (1989 to 1999).

Percent

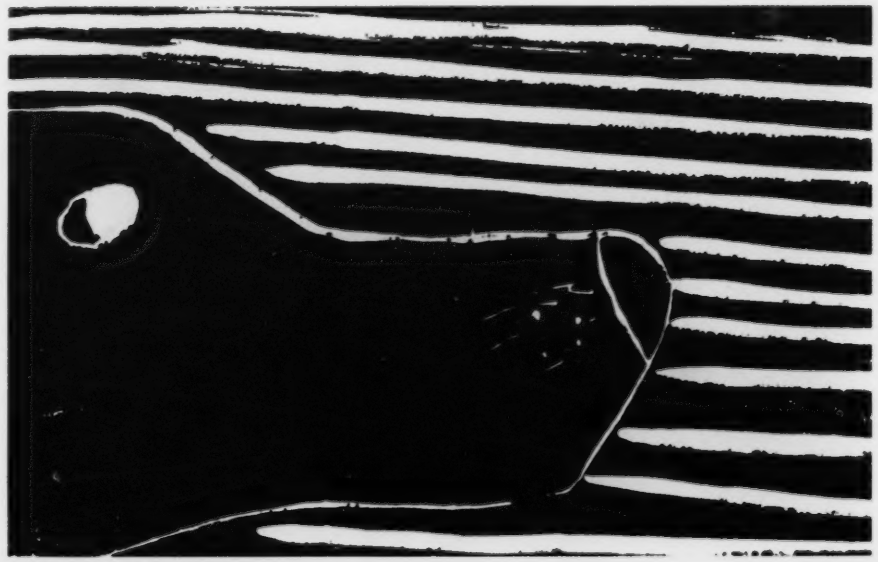
A rate is not the same thing as a percent. A percent is actually one form of a rate — those rates calculated using 100.

Averaging Numbers
The *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* reviews the status of indicators in the late 1990s. For many indicators, numbers and rates may represent the average or the aggregate (combination) of three years of data. This provides more reliable figures for data that may fluctuate greatly from year to year. For example, the numbers and rates of low birth-weight babies listed for 1988 represent the average for the years 1986 through 1988. (Starting with this *Data Book*, any three-year average will be represented by the last year in the range. Each chart and table that uses averaged years provides information on the range of years.)

Combining County Data
Small populations in some areas of the state provide us with two challenges. The first is the issue of reliability. The number of children classified within some of our indicator categories is often too small to provide reliable information. The second challenge is the issue of confidentiality. Providing information that shows a very small number of children with certain characteristics can lead to their actual identification at the local level. Because Essex and Grand Isle counties have very small populations, Vermont KIDS COUNT has combined data from these counties with data from adjoining counties. State agency reports often combine Essex with Orleans and Grand Isle with Franklin for these same reasons, and we will follow their convention in this book.

A Caution about Drawing Conclusions
The key in the evaluation of statistics is to examine everything in context. The data challenge stereotypes, pushing us to look beyond the surface for the less obvious reasons for the numbers. Individual indicators, like the rest of life's concerns, don't exist in a vacuum and can't be reduced to a set of best and worst counties.

Where county-level data are presented, readers can see whether rates are "high" or "low," relative to the state rate. However, while regional rates do provide a useful "snapshot" of conditions for a particular time-period, their reliability for inferring stable differences between one region and another is uncertain. For this report, the significance of any such differences was not subjected to statistical testing.



2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book

Executive Summary

Key Vermont KIDS COUNT Findings

The *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* is a comprehensive summary of indicators of child and youth well-being that trace trends on county and state levels in the late 1990s. Most of the data are derived from U.S. Census and state government sources.

Note:

- Indicators followed by a ◇ symbol are included on the county pages.
- All data represent a three-year average unless noted otherwise. Data for averaged years are represented by the third year. For example, 1999 = the average of 1997-1999.
- Single-year data are represented by *

Near the end of the 1990s, welfare reform, a booming economy, and low unemployment had resulted in dramatic declines in caseloads of ANFC recipients. During that period, many families that had relied on ANFC and Food Stamp benefits joined the work force. While the incomes of some former recipient families have increased, most remained in or near poverty. Health indicators did see improvements, however. Between 1988 and 1998, all child and youth health indicators improved, with the exception of the incidence of low birth-weight babies.

Economic Security

- One Vermont child in eight lived below the poverty line in 1998, less than in 1994, when one in seven was poor. That means about 18,244 young people — more than the entire population of Rutland City (18,187) — were at greater risk of food insecurity, health problems, and other poor outcomes than were their peers.

- In 1999, 9.1 percent of children benefited from ANFC, compared to 12.7 percent in 1994. Enrollment in the Food Stamp program also fell during the late 1990s: 14.4 percent of children received Food Stamp benefits in 1999, compared to 17.7 percent in 1994. ◇

- In the 1999-2000* school year, almost 20 percent of students were approved to receive free school lunches at schools offering the program. Overall, more than one-quarter of students were approved for reduced price or no-cost school lunch. ◇

- Another indicator related to low-income status is the percent of single-parent families with children, which has increased from one-fifth to one-quarter of families with children from 1990 to 1998. The percent of first births to single teens with less than 12 years of schooling represents the formation of "high-risk" families. Children born to these "New Families at Risk" increased to 8.2 percent in 1998, compared to 6.7 percent in 1988. ◇

- In 1998, four out of five Vermont mothers with children under age six were part of the labor force, compared to three out of four in 1996.

- Quality child care is more likely through a regulated child care provider, whether home- or center-based, because they must meet certain standards for quality. Unfortunately, the total number of regulated child care openings in 1998* met less than 50 percent of estimated child care need. ◇

- The rate of teens who were not employed and not attending school rose from 5 to 8 percent of all teens between 1990 and 1998. Youth in this situation are at greater risk of long-term joblessness than are their peers who are employed or in school.

Health and Safety

- Use of early prenatal care was 84.4 percent in 1998, compared to 79.4 percent in 1988. ◆
- The rate of infant mortality fell by over 19 percent from 1988 to 1998. ◆
- Despite the greater use of early prenatal care, the rate of low birthweight babies increased from 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent between 1988 and 1998. ◆
- Births to teens (ages 15 to 19) dropped to 27.1 per 1,000 — a more than 15 percent change from 1988 to 1998. Births to young teens (ages 15 to 17) fell from 18 to 12.9 per 1,000 during the same period. This indicator is closely linked to future health and economic status of a child and its family. ◆
- The state child death rate continued to decline: down to 21.2 deaths per 100,000 children in 1998, compared to 28.9 in 1988. Teen deaths due to accident, suicide and homicide dropped to 37.2 per 100,000 teens, a drop of almost 52 percent from 1988, most likely due to an overall drop in motor vehicle-related deaths. ◆
- Child abuse and neglect rates continued to drop statewide — by 36 percent in a decade — from 10.8 confirmed victims per 1,000 children in 1989, to 6.9 per 1,000 in 1999. ◆
- The average daily rates of children and youth in state custody vary depending on type of custody and year. Most recently, between 1994 and 1999, only delinquent custody cases increased — by almost 25 percent (from 4.1 to 5.1 per 1,000 children). "Unmanageable" cases fell by over 23 percent during the same period, and the rate of abused and neglected children in substitute care remained the same, 5.9 per 1,000 children. ◆

18

19

Findings

Economic Security Indicators

Children in Poverty, by percent

In 1998, one in eight Vermont kids, or 12.7 percent, lived in families whose incomes fell below the poverty level. That means about 18,244 young people were at greater risk of food insecurity, sickness and other poor outcomes than their peers. During the 1990s, the Vermont child poverty rate ranged from 17 percent in 1994 to 14.4 percent in 1996 and 14.9 percent in 1997.

Poverty is generally understood to mean that a family's income is not enough to cover basic living costs and meals. The federal government annually sets an official poverty line to determine eligibility for benefits ($13,650 in 1998 for a family of three). However, that does not mean that once income is above the poverty line, a family is able to meet its needs. Although fewer children lived on incomes under the poverty line in 1998, many family incomes simply shifted to "working poor" status — even though one or more parents were employed, their incomes weren't sufficient to pay for all of their basic needs. "Working poor" is defined as families in which at least one parent works 50 or more weeks a year (full-or part-time), and whose income is below 200 percent of the poverty line.[1]

1990 and 1998 County Child Poverty Estimates

County	1990	1998
Addison	13.8	11.8
Bennington	15.1	13.9
Caledonia	20.5	17.1
Chittenden	9.2	8.7
Essex/Orleans	24.0	20.8
Franklin/Grand Isle	16.0	13.2
Lamoille	15.8	13.3
Orange	16.8	12.4
Rutland	15.2	14.1
Washington	13.8	11.8
Windham	14.9	12.6
Windsor	11.7	12.1
Vermont	**14.7**	**12.7**

Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Estimated rates are model-based, and do not use actual numbers of poor children. Therefore, they should be used with caution. The estimates are calculated using three-year weighted averages, 1990=1988-1990, 1998=1996-1998.

Note: *The data series for child poverty used in this* Data Book *differs from previous years, and thus, cannot be used for comparison purposes. These data are based on information from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program (SAIPE), and are used nationally for determining Title 1 (U.S. Education Department) funds distribution.*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

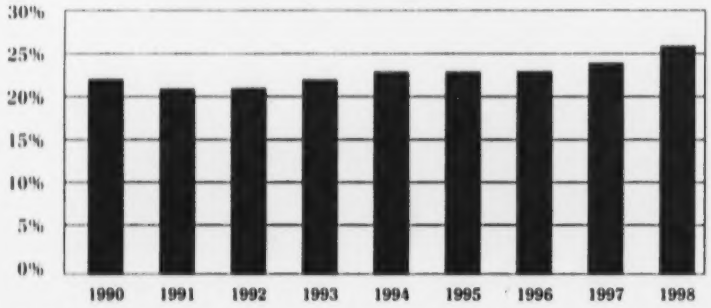
Families with Children, Headed by a Single Parent

In less than a decade, Vermont went from having about one in five families with children headed by a single parent (22 percent), to one in four (26 percent) from 1990 to 1998.

Most single-parent families are headed by women, many of whom depend on child support to help meet their kids' basic needs. In Vermont, one child out of three is eligible to receive this support. Beyond child support, incomes of single-parent families headed by women are usually lower than those headed by men because women earn less than men; many also have fewer years of work experience. Children in these families are, therefore, more likely to be at risk of poverty.

Note: *This indicator is different from one used in previous Vermont KIDS COUNT data books. Previous books measured percent of children, in families headed by a single parent. For this* Data Book, *we followed the lead of the national KIDS COUNT data books, which examines percent of families with children, headed by a single parent. Therefore, it is important to avoid comparing data in this book with those in previous books.*

Percent of Families with Children, Headed by a Single Parent

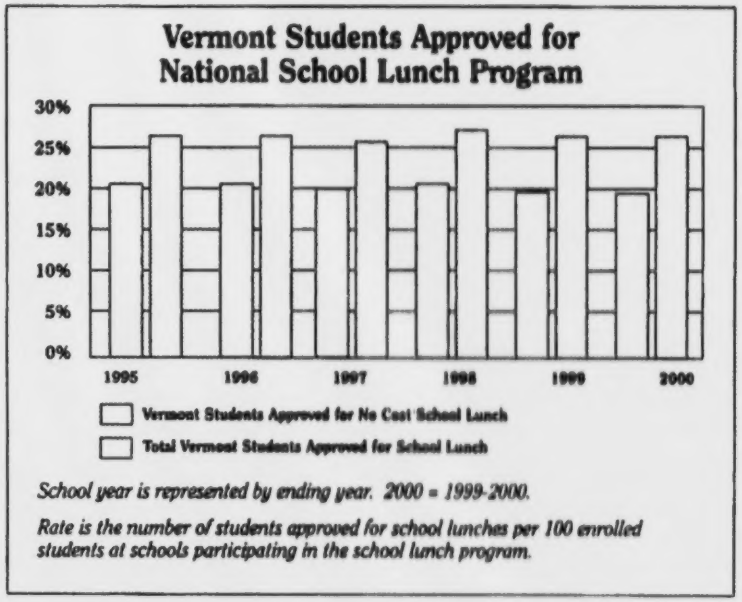


Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1993 is the average of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

National School Lunch Program

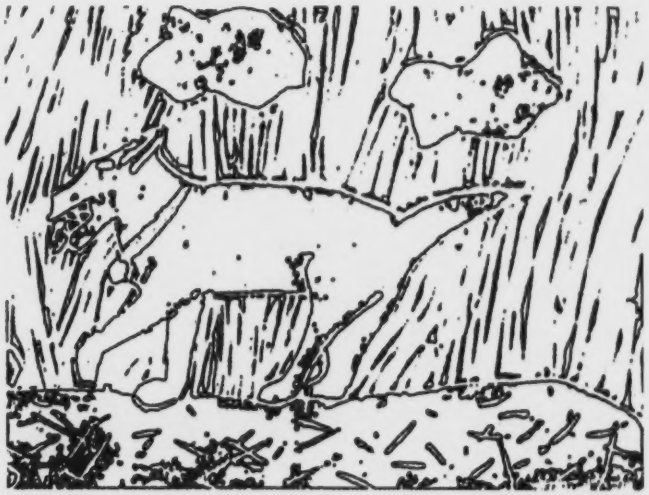
The National School Lunch Program can help make a difference in a low-income child's educational success. Chronic undernutrition has been consistently linked to poor cognitive growth, but early improvements in diet can help reverse this condition. Nationally, disadvantaged children obtain one-third to one-half of their daily nutritional needs from school lunches.

In the 1999-2000 school year, over one in four Vermont public school students were approved to receive free or reduced-cost school lunch (at schools that offer the program). Students may receive free lunches if their family's income is 130 percent of the poverty level or less ($18,044 for a family of three); low-cost school lunches are available to those with incomes from 130 - 185 percent of poverty (up to $25,678). Most students approved for this program were qualified to receive free meals. Unfortunately, not all eligible students take advantage of this benefit; some families do not apply for school lunch because of the stigma associated with receiving assistance. However, that problem may be reduced with the introduction of meal cards, which do not reveal a student's economic status.



School year is represented by ending year. 2000 = 1999-2000.

Rate is the number of students approved for school lunches per 100 enrolled students at schools participating in the school lunch program.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ANFC Benefits

Although Vermont's child poverty rate in 1998 was 12.7 percent, the rate of children receiving ANFC benefits has decreased from 12.7 percent in 1994, to 10 percent in 1998, and 9.1 percent in 1999. That means 28.3 percent fewer children received benefits by the end of the decade. (ANFC is Vermont's public assistance program, Aid to Needy Families with Children. Nationally, the program is known as TANF – Temporary Aid to Needy Families.)

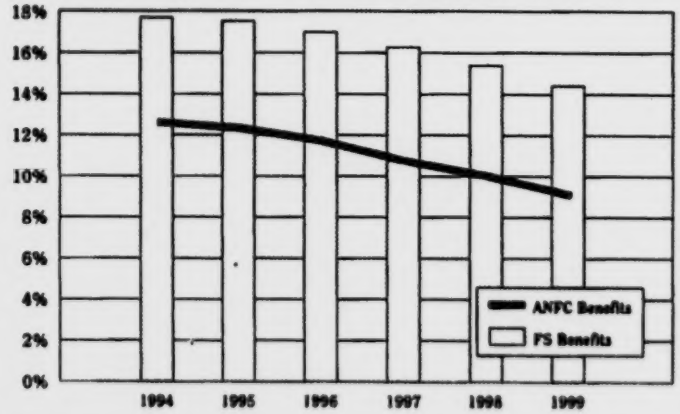
With the introduction of welfare reform in the mid-1990s, welfare rolls were expected to decline as recipients found work in the booming economy. Many national studies on the status of former ANFC recipients have found that even when job earnings help raise family incomes, many families remained in or near poverty. The 1999 federal poverty line was $13,880 for a family of three, and $16,700 for a family of four. Because most former ANFC recipients have less education and fewer skills than other workers, their jobs often pay at or near minimum wage. In 1999, even Vermont's higher-than-average minimum wage could not bring families out of poverty. At $5.75 an hour, a parent working full-time would gross only about $11,960 annually.[2]

Food Stamp Benefits

Many low-paid workers, including former ANFC recipients, are still eligible for Food Stamp benefits if their household gross incomes are 130 percent of the poverty level or less. In 1999, that was $18,044 for a family of three, and $21,710 for a family of four. Between 1994 and 1999, the percent of children benefiting from Food Stamps declined from 17.7 to 14.4 percent. At the same time, food shelves and pantries saw significant increases in the numbers of families seeking help.

Some advocates attribute part of the drop in Food Stamp enrollment to misunderstandings about eligibility. Families often mistakenly believe they are not eligible for the Food Stamp program if they no longer qualify for ANFC or have a job, yet many still can receive the benefits.

Vermont Children in Families Receiving ANFC and Food Stamp Benefits



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1994 is the average of 1992, 1993, and 1994.

Rate is the number of children receiving benefits per 100 children under age 18.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Women with Children, Employed in the Labor Force

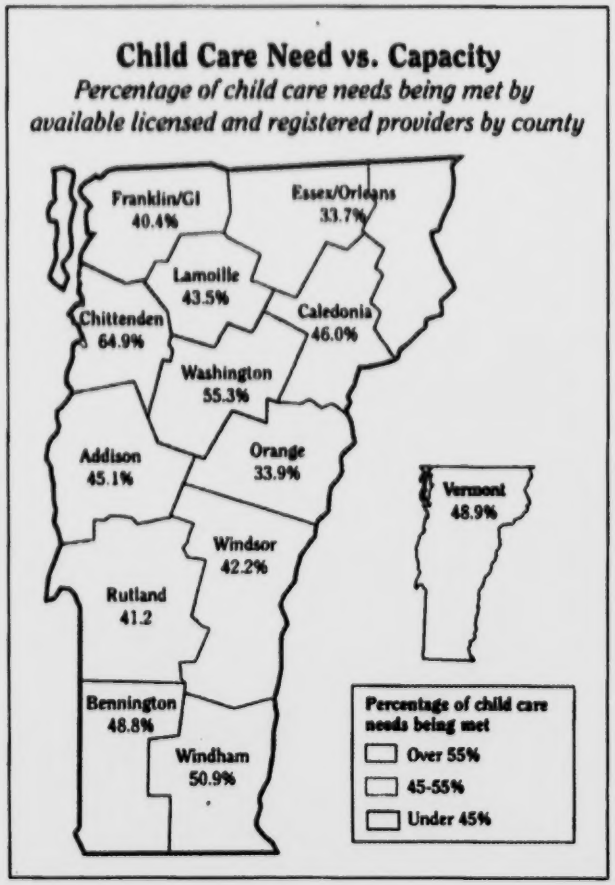
Vermont leads the nation in the percent of women in the labor force with children under the age of six. In 1998, 80.3 percent of these mothers worked for wages — 25 percent more than the U.S. average of 64.1 percent.[3] That figure is only slightly less than the percent of Vermont women in the labor force with children under age 18.

In 1998, 22 percent more women with young children had joined the Vermont work force, than in 1990. That means that four out of five mothers with children age six or younger may have needed some form of child care in 1998.

Note: Except for 1990, data for this indicator represent three-year averages. 1998=1996-1998.

Child Care Need vs. Capacity

Percentage of child care needs being met by available licensed and registered providers by county



Child Care Need vs. Capacity

In 1998, the total number of regulated child care openings met less than 50 percent of the estimated need. Higher quality care is associated with regulated child care because the providers must meet certain standards. Both home-based and center-based facilities can qualify as regulated providers, but in different ways. Family child care providers register by completing a self-certification process to meet state health and safety regulations. Center-based child care must obtain licenses for renewable three-year periods.

The capacity to provide services varies by county. The combined rural counties of Essex/Orleans had only enough regulated child care services to meet 33.7 percent of estimated need, compared to Chittenden County, which had the highest capacity, at 64.9 percent of need. Overall, in six out of 12 regions, available regulated child care met less than 45 percent of the estimated need. Four counties were able to meet 45-55 percent of need. Only two counties had the capacity to fill over 55 percent of the demand for these child care openings.

A major barrier to low-income parents finding and keeping jobs — especially in rural areas — is the scarcity of quality, affordable child care. As welfare reform progresses, and more and more recipients enter the paid work force, it will be even more important to increase the amount of regulated child care openings.

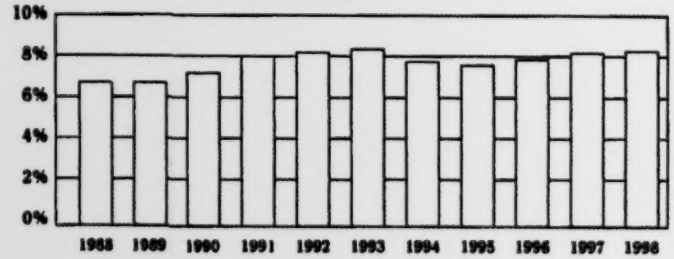
New Families at Risk

New Families at Risk are defined as first births to teen mothers who have not finished high school. A mother with just one of these risk factors — being single, a teen parent, or without a diploma or a G.E.D. — could face economic struggles ahead. The combination of all three, however, makes these families the single largest group at risk of poverty. Each of these factors has consequences that create their own ripple effects — impacting health, educational success, and employment opportunities for both the mother and offspring. With few skills and no diploma, these young parents are ill-prepared to support their child financially, and are more likely to drop out than their peers.

Vermont's rate of New Families at Risk showed an increase of 23.6 percent from 1988 to 1998. The rates of these families grew from 6.7 to 8.2 percent. During the decade, the rates fluctuated somewhat. In the early 1990s, they rose to 8.3 percent in 1993, but dropped to below eight percent from 1994 through 1996.

New Families at Risk

*First births to single teens who have not completed high school**



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1993 is the average of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

**Rate is the number of New Families at Risk per 100 first births.*

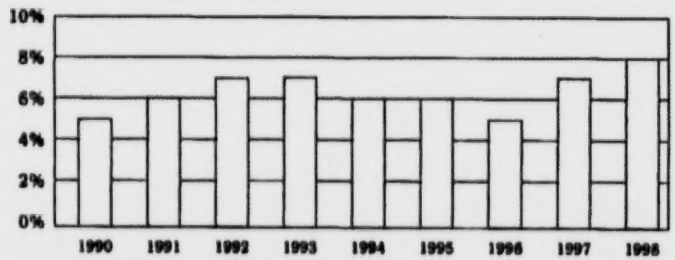
Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16-19)

Teens not attending school and not working are at greater risk of long-term joblessness than are their employed or in-school peers. Young men and women who remain in this limbo for long can face later difficulties with finding and keeping jobs. The problem can be worse in rural areas, where there are fewer job openings and public transportation is limited. For youth who are also dropouts, as adults, they will be three times as likely to live in poverty than adults with a high school diploma or G.E.D.[4]

The estimated rate of Vermont youth in this situation increased during the 1990s, from five percent to eight percent, equal to the national level. During most of the 1990s, Vermont rates for this indicator stayed at six or seven percent, so it is too early to be certain the recent increase reflects a trend.

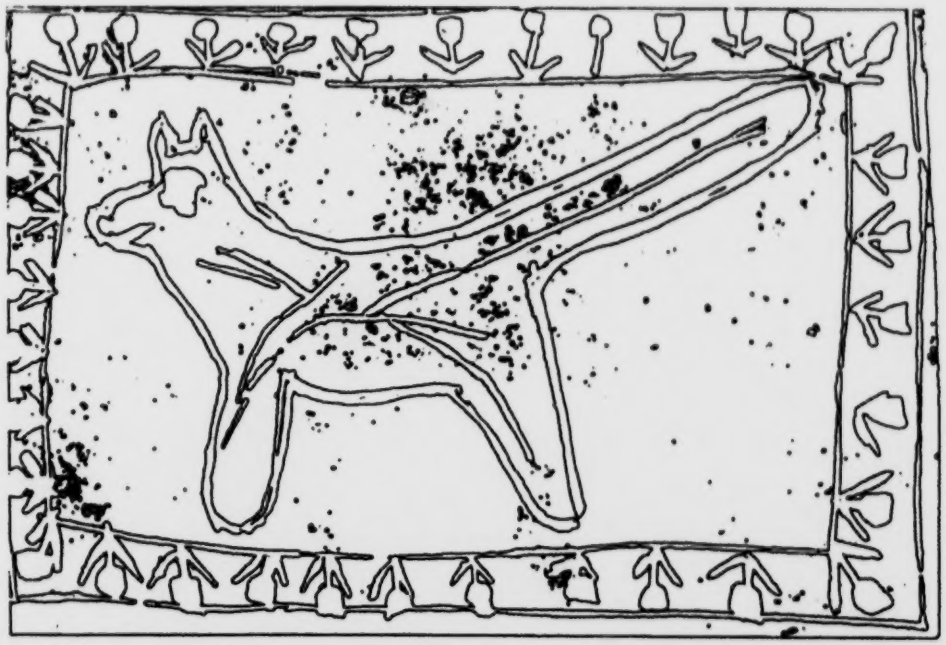
Teens Not Attending School and Not Working

Ages 16-19



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1993 is the average of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Rate is per 100 teens aged 16-19.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Health Indicators

Maternal and Infant Health: Early Prenatal Care, Low Birth Weight, Infant Mortality

Prenatal care, low birth weight, and infant mortality form a cluster of indicators related to maternal and infant health. Data on these measures are significant because they can be an indication of a state's commitment to young children and families, especially disadvantaged families. Poverty and associated problems are often linked to preventable health problems in mothers and children.

> *"Women who are poor are more likely to give birth to low birthweight babies. This relationship is complex and may be influenced by several factors including lack of education, being single and having less support, having less access to nutritious food and safe shelter, and a generally more stressful environment."*[5]

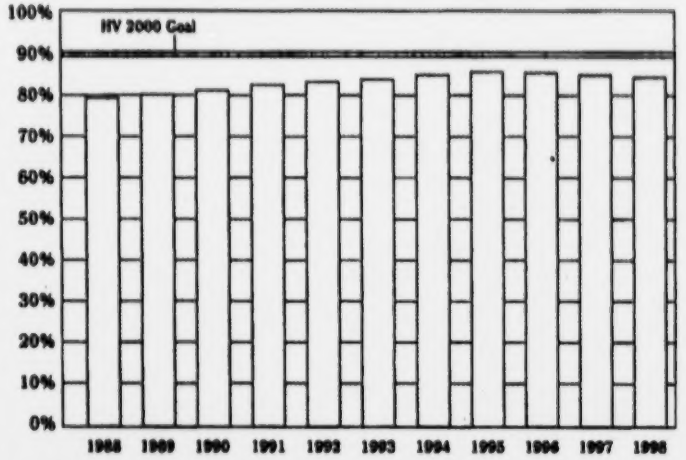
Low-income infants are 40 to 50 percent more likely than are other infants to be born underweight or pre-term.[6] Other threats to health include being a teen parent, smoking (responsible for 20 percent of low birth-weight babies)[7], substance abuse, and domestic violence.

Researchers have identified low birth weight as "the single greatest risk" to infant health.[8] Weighing under 5.5 pounds, underweight babies are much more likely than others to be at risk of early death, long-term disabilities, cognitive delays, and a whole range of other problems.

A number of medical risk factors also are known to cause or be related to low birth weight, such as multiple pregnancies, pregnancy late in life, high blood pressure, kidney disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions.

Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

Percent receiving care during the first three months of pregnancy



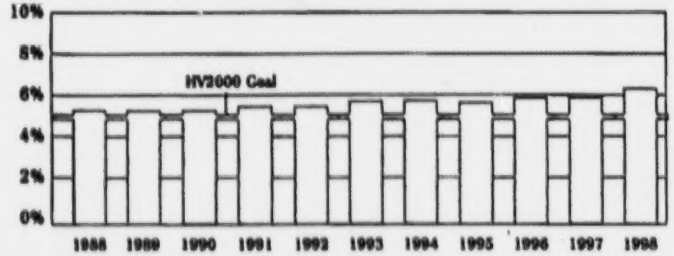
Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1988 is the average of 1986, 1987, and 1988.

Healthy Vermonters Goal 2000 for Prenatal Care: At least 90 percent of pregnant women receive prenatal care beginning in the first three months of pregnancy.

Vermont has seen a steady improvement in the use of early prenatal care, increasing by over six percent between 1988 and 1998, when 84.4 percent of pregnant women received this service. This brought participation closer to the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of 90 percent.

Percent of Low Birth-Weight Babies

**Rate of infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth*



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1993 is the average of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

**Rate is the number of low birth-weight babies per 100 live births.*

Healthy Vermonters Goal 2000 for low birth weight: 5 percent or less of all births are low birth weight

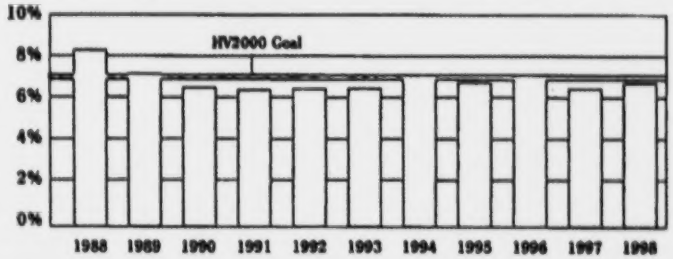
Vermont's rate of low birth-weight infants slowly increased during the past decade, getting further from the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal to reduce the rate to five percent or less. In 1998, 6.3 percent of babies were low birth weight, 22.5 percent more than in 1988, when the rate was 5.3 percent.

Infant mortality — the death of a child before age one — is most often caused by Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), complications from premature birth (such as low birth weight), or birth defects. Children born to parents living in poverty have a 50 percent higher risk of dying before their first birthdays than do higher-income children.[9]

Low birth weight or infant mortality cannot be prevented simply by targeting isolated risk factors; many are interrelated and complex, and require a spectrum of approaches. One preventive effort that addresses

Vermont Infant Mortality Rate

**Rate of deaths of babies less than one year of age*



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1993 is the average of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

**Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.*

Healthy Vermonters Goal 2000 for infant mortality is seven or fewer infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Vermont's infant mortality rates are generally among the lowest in the nation. In 1998, the rate of children who died before their first birthdays was 6.8 for every 1,000 live births, even lower than the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of seven deaths or fewer. This represents a decline of more than 19 percent since 1988, when the rate was 8.4 per 1,000.

a number of risk factors is the use of early prenatal care. It enables caregivers to better anticipate maternal medical and related social needs, and expectant mothers receiving early prenatal care are better prepared to handle medically risky pregnancies. Prenatal care services provide mothers with medical and psychosocial monitoring (such as tests for blood pressure and blood sugar), and offer health education and nutritional counseling.

Teen Birth Rate (ages 15-19)
Young Teen Birth Rate (ages 15-17)

Vermont teen birth rates followed the national trend from 1988 to 1998, declining significantly for both age ranges. The improvements in this indicator will mean greater opportunities for young women whose future would be limited by early childbirth, and the associated risks to health, economic security, and educational achievement for both themselves and their future children.

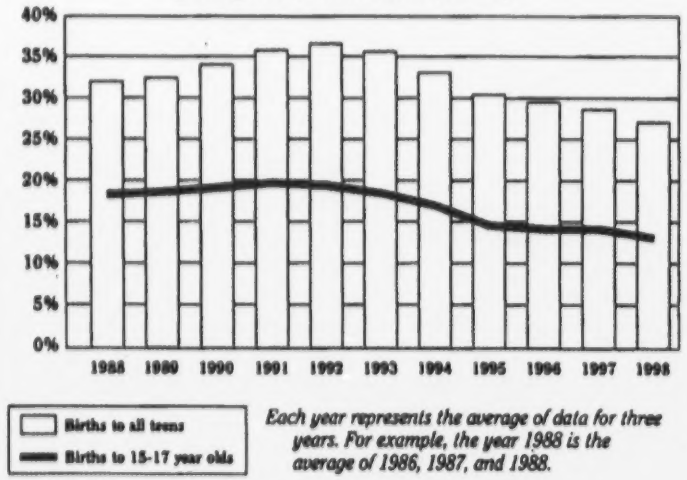
Teen birth rates are grouped into two age ranges: births to "all teens" — young women, aged 15 to 19 — and a subgroup of younger teens, aged 15 to 17. In Vermont, the rates for all teens dropped by over 15 percent during the course of a decade, from 32.1 live births per 1,000 female teens in 1988, to 27.1 per 1,000 in 1998. At the same time, the birth rate for young teens declined even more, by 28.6 percent — from 18 live births per 1,000 female teens in 1988, to 12.9 per 1,000 in 1998.

The factors related to teen pregnancy can be complex, defying easy solutions and requiring multi-faceted prevention approaches. For example, fifty-one percent of the fathers of children born to teen mothers are not teen males, but men in their 20s or older.[10]

Note: *Prior to this Data Book, the teen birth rate was measured differently, based on births to teens as a percent of all births. Beginning with this Data Book, the rate is based on births to teens, per 1,000 female teens of the same age.*

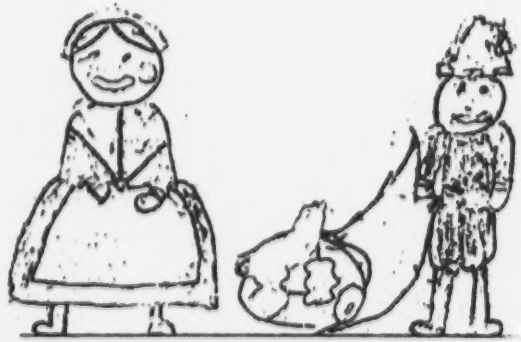
Teen Birth Rates

Teen birth rates (ages 15-19) and young teen birth rates (15-17)*



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1988 is the average of 1986, 1987, and 1988.

**Rate is the number of births per 1,000 female teens ages 15-19 or 1,000 female teens ages 15-17.*



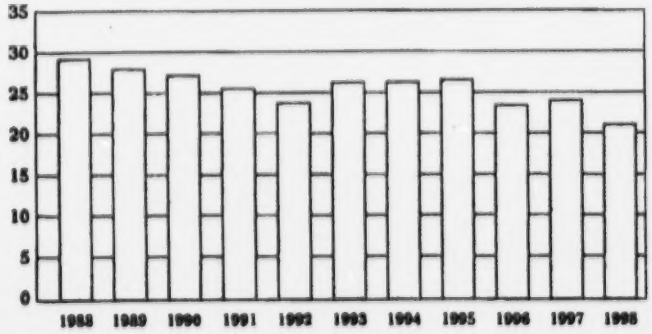
Child Deaths

Most child deaths in Vermont are due to disease or trauma from unintentional injuries, usually from motor vehicle and other accidents. Child and teen deaths are tracked by a professional monitoring panel, the Vermont Child Fatality Review Committee.

Vermont's rate of child deaths (ages 1-14) has steadily declined since the late 1980s. In 1998, the rate was 21.2 deaths per 100,000 children, compared to 28.9 in 1988, a decrease of nearly twenty-seven percent. Nationally, reduced child mortality has been associated with improvements in medical care and an overall lower rate of vehicle accident-related deaths.[11]

Vermont Child Death Rate

Rates per 1,000 children, ages 1-14



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1988 is the average of 1986, 1987, and 1988.

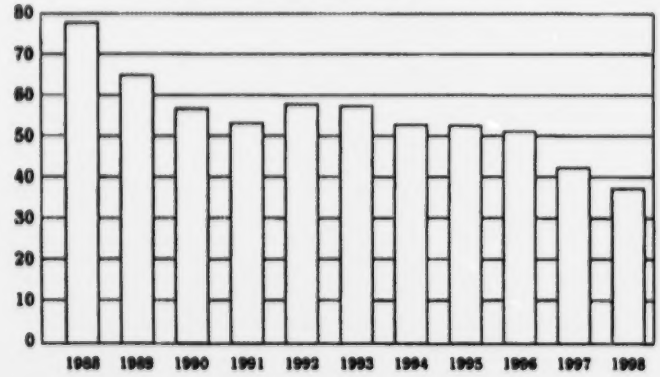
Teen Deaths by Accident, Suicide and Homicide

In Vermont, motor vehicle accidents are responsible for most of the violent teen deaths for ages 15 to 19. Deaths from accident, suicide and homicide fell by over 50 percent during a ten-year period. By 1998, the state rate of teen deaths caused by accident, suicide, or homicide was 37.2 per 100,000 teens — down from 77.3 deaths per 100,000 in 1988.

Alcohol use is often associated with vehicle-related deaths. The National Highway Traffic Administration found that, in 1998, 45 percent of all motor vehicle deaths of Vermont teens (aged 15 to 20) were related to alcohol use.[12] This was higher than the national average of 36 percent. Because of Vermont's small numbers, these data may fluctuate greatly from year-to-year. Even so, in almost every year from 1990 to 1998, Vermont's level has been higher than the national average.

Teen Deaths Due to Accident, Homicide and Suicide

Rates per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1988 is the average of 1986, 1987, and 1988.

Children and Youth with Disabilities

Children and youth with disabilities are a significant, but often overlooked, minority of young people in Vermont. Like all kids, they share many common experiences, needs, and interests. Unlike most other kids, young people with disabilities can face many challenges in meeting their needs throughout life.

Similar to kids in low-income families, children and youth with disabilities face an array of struggles. They are more likely than other young people to be sick, have difficulty accessing appropriate medical care, and drop out of school. As adults, they more often experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Unlike *all* other young people, however, youth with chronic conditions and disabilities also may face continuing challenges to getting specialized medical care and equipment, participating in quality education, recreation, and community programs.

To be able to remove these obstacles, advocates and government policymakers need to learn the scope of their needs by determining how many young people have disabilities, and whether they are receiving adequate services. Currently, no state or local agency collects reliable, uniform statistics on the number of children and youth with disabilities. The state insurance oversight agency has come up with an incidence rate for "Children with Special Health Needs." In this *Data Book*, we have used this rate to create rough county estimates of the numbers of children fitting this definition. Children with special health needs are defined as young people under age 21 who have physical, cognitive, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that meet certain health department criteria.

The estimates of CSHN included in this Vermont KIDS COUNT publication are experimental — they are based on an estimated incidence rate — therefore, they should not be interpreted as actual counts of young people. The results, in fact, probably overstate the actual numbers; however, this indicator is presented on the county pages as a first step toward providing data on this under-served population. (See Sources and Methodology in the Appendix for more information on this indicator.)

A Vermont Children's Forum report, "Special Report on Children and Youth with Disabilities in Vermont," reviews the scope of needs and policy issues for these young people. (For a free copy, contact the Vermont Children's Forum.)

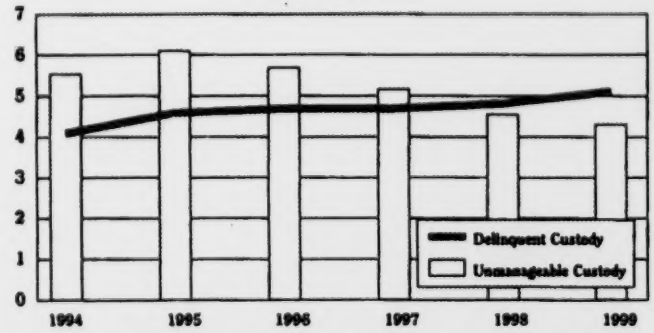
CHILD PROTECTION INDICATORS

Children and Youth in Custody

Vermont places young people in state care through the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Children and youth enter custody as either Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS) or as delinquents. CHINS includes those classified as either abused and neglected or youth considered "unmanageable" — so-called "pushed-out" children, or youth unable to be supervised by their parents or guardians. SRS may place these children in foster care, residential treatment, or other protective custody. Delinquent youth in custody are generally those who are repeat offenders or who have committed a serious offense.

During the period of 1994 to 1999, two custody rates moved in opposite directions, while another remained unchanged. As unmanageable custody cases fell, delinquent custody cases rose. The rate of unmanageable youth in SRS care was expected to decline because of a 1996 law that eliminated referrals to custody for teens aged 16 to 17. Now, unmanageable youth of those ages can only receive SRS services if they enter custody as victims of abuse or neglect, or as delinquents.

Delinquent and Unmanageable Youth in Custody
Ages 10-17



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1994 is the average of 1992, 1993, and 1994.

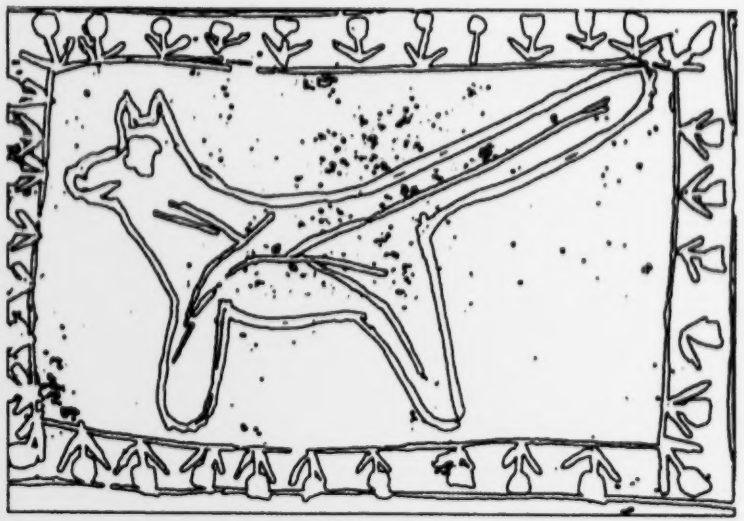
Rate is the average daily number of youths in custody per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Abused and Neglected Custody Cases (Under age 18)

The 1999 rate of abused and neglected children placed in substitute care was the same as in 1994, 5.9 cases per 1,000 children. While the rates of maltreated children in state care remained nearly unchanged during the previous five years, they still represent the highest rates of children and youth in custody.

Delinquent Custody Cases (Ages 10–17)

Delinquent youth represent the smallest number of custody cases; however, the rate in this category has been increasing. The rates rose by almost one-quarter between 1994 and 1999. In 1999, 5.1 per 1,000 youth were under state oversight, compared to 4.1 per 1,000 in 1994.

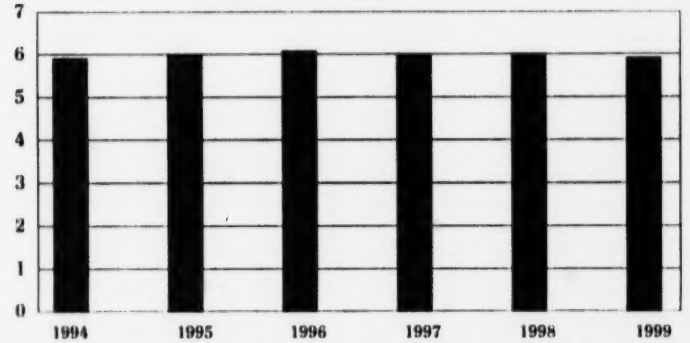


Unmanageable Custody Cases (Ages 10–17)
The rate of unmanageable youth in custody increased steadily during the early 1990s, but declined by 23.5 percent from 1994 to 1999. The average daily rate of unmanageable children in custody was 5.6 per 1,000 youth in 1994, compared to 4.3 per 1,000 in 1999.

Note: *Starting with this 2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book, custody rates are calculated using a new denominator. Rates are based on the average daily number of youths in custody, per 1,000 youths. Previously, rates had been calculated based on 10,000 youths.*

Abused and Neglected Children and Youth in Custody

Age 17 and under



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1994 is the average of 1992, 1993, and 1994.

Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children in custody per 1,000 children under 18.

Child Abuse and Neglect

The rate of substantiated victims of all forms of child maltreatment continued to decline in 1999. The combined rate dropped by 36 percent from 1989 to 1999 — from 10.8 confirmed victims for every 1,000 children, to 6.9 per 1,000. Regardless of the form it takes, abuse and neglect have consequences for the whole spectrum of a child's — and family's — life. The impact may be long lasting, affecting the victim's emotional and physical health, and creating repercussions for school performance and relationships.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined in Vermont law as "any act involving sexual molestation or exploitation," and includes lewd and lascivious conduct involving a child, rape and incest, as well as child pornography. The rate of confirmed sexual abuse victims in 1999 was 3.0 per 1,000 children, compared to 4.8 in 1989, a 37.6 percent decline over time. Sexual abuse rates remained higher, and decreased at a slower pace, than other forms of child maltreatment.

Physical Abuse

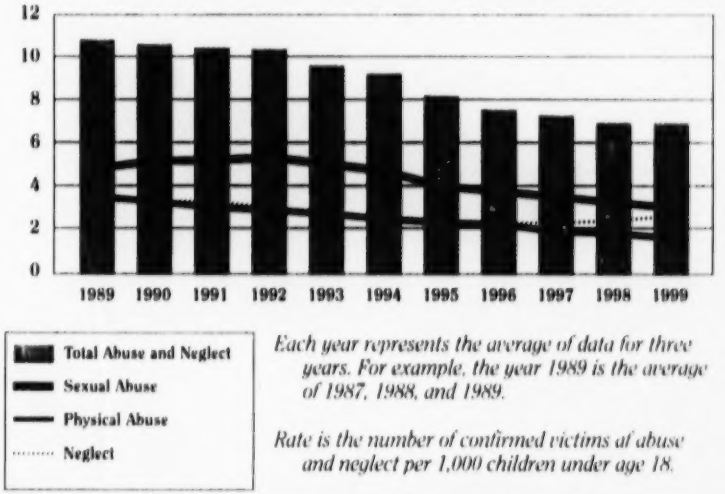
Physical abuse was the first form of maltreatment in Vermont to show a turnaround — rates began to decline in the late 1980s. That trend has continued, and by the end of the decade, the incidence was cut in half. In 1999, the rate was 1.7 confirmed victims per 1,000 children, down from 3.6 in 1989.

Neglect

A parent or guardian is considered neglectful when they intentionally fail to provide basic care to a child — such as adequate health care, food, shelter, or clothing. The category of neglect also includes other forms of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment. One is emotional child abuse, which can inflict harm as severely as physical and sexual abuse. In addition, Vermont SRS also investigates allegations that a child is at "risk of harm." State law defines this as, "danger that a child would be severely harmed by other than accidental means." Because data on risk of harm and emotional abuse are compiled differently at the national level, Vermont combines these statistics with neglect data.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Rate of Substantiated Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect by Type



Each year represents the average of data for three years. For example, the year 1989 is the average of 1987, 1988, and 1989.

Rate is the number of confirmed victims of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under age 18.

Only rates of substantiated victims are presented in this chart; an unspecified number of cases go unreported every year. In addition, certain forms of abuse, such as emotional maltreatment, are seldom reported to authorities. Of those cases of abuse and neglect that are reported, many are not deemed "investigable."

The rate of confirmed victims of neglect declined by over 20 percent from 1989-1999, from 3.4 per 1,000 children to 2.7 per 1,000. In actual numbers, by 1999, there were over 100 fewer victims, a drop from 488 to 384.

Notes: *The total number of substantiated victims may be less than the sum of victims for each separate type of abuse and neglect, because some children were confirmed victims of more than one form of maltreatment.*

Starting with this Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book, *child abuse and neglect rates have been calculated using a new denominator. Rates are based on the number of substantiated victims of abuse and neglect, per 1,000 children. Previously, rates were based on 10,000 children.*

Endnotes

1 Annie E. Casey Foundation. *2001 KIDS COUNT Data Book.* Pp. 166-167.

2 This wage level went into effect October 1, 1999. Prior to that, minimum wage was $5.25 an hour, starting in October 1997. Source: Wage and Hours Division, Vt. Department of Labor and Industry.

3 Institute for Women's Policy Research. 2000. Based on U.S. Census data. Amy Caiazza, e-mail correspondence, 1/2/01. (1989 data=1989, 1995=1994-1996, 1997=1996-1998.) 1997 data is based on 1998 CPS.

4 Annie E. Casey Foundation. 1997 KIDS COUNT Overview.
Online document: http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/kc1997/overview.htm.
(Based on March 1996 Current Population Survey, U.S. Census).

5 Best Start Resource Centre. 1998. *Prevention of Low Birth Weight in Canada: Literature Review and Strategies,* Second Edition. Online document: http://www.opc.on.ca/beststart/lbw/lbwchap2.html#POV

6 Ibid.

7 The David and Lucille Packard Foundation. *The Future of Children* Vol.5, No.1 Spring 1995.

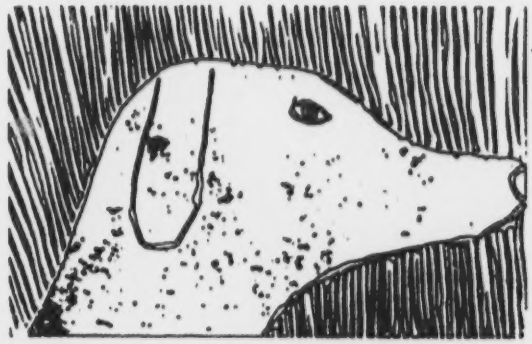
8 Vermont Agency of Human Services. Social Well-Being of Vermonters 2000. P. 17.

9 Annie E. Casey Foundation. *2000 KIDS COUNT Data Book,* P. 26

10 Annie E. Casey Foundation. *1999 KIDS COUNT Data Book,* P. 21.

11 *2000 KIDS COUNT Data Book,* P. 26.

12 *Social Well-Being of Vermonters 2000.* P. 59. Alcohol-related accidents mean that at least one person involved (driver or pedestrian) had a blood alcohol level of 0.01 grams or more. Note that age range for alcohol-related deaths from motor vehicles (15-20) differs from KIDS COUNT indicator range for teen violent deaths (15-19).



County-By-County Findings

County Child and Youth Population
Percent of Total Population

Counties	[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]	
	Number of Children	Percent of Total	Number of Children	Percent of Total	Number of Children	Percent of Total
Addison	8,759	25.1	8,507	24.3	8,504	24.0
Bennington	8,977	25.1	8,701	24.4	8,239	22.9
Caledonia	7,556	26.4	7,341	25.5	7,305	25.3
Chittenden	32,241	22.7	31,603	22.0	31,307	21.7
Essex/Orleans	8,109	25.4	7,863	24.5	8,278	25.8
Frank/GI	14,209	28.7	13,912	27.9	13,785	27.1
Lamoille	5,629	25.7	5,385	24.9	5,291	24.1
Orange	7,314	27.1	6,995	25.9	7,085	25.4
Rutland	14,750	23.6	14,347	22.8	13,860	22.2
Washington	13,812	24.3	13,282	23.5	13,214	23.5
Windham	10,314	23.9	10,057	23.5	9,959	23.3
Windsor	13,849	25.2	13,354	24.1	12,507	22.6
Vermont	**145,519**	**24.7**	**141,347**	**23.9**	**139,334**	**23.5**

Vermont Kids Count

Addison County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, all but one of the child health indicators improved in Addison County, although the infant mortality rate remained above the Healthy Vermonters Goal 2000 of 7 deaths per 1,000 births. The early prenatal care rate increased and the child death rate declined. The infant mortality and teen violent death rates decreased substantially. The rate of births to all teens dropped and the rate of births to young teens (ages 15-17) dropped by over 36 percent. The overall rates of confirmed victims of maltreatment also declined in the decade ending in 1999. The greatest improvement was in rates of physical abuse victims, which dropped by 73 percent. Several economic measures also showed significant shifts — from 1994 to 1999, the rate of children receiving ANFC benefits declined by 36 percent and the rate of children receiving Food Stamp benefits decreased by over 25 percent.

Deteriorating Measures

The low birth-weight rate increased from 4.6 births out of 100, to 7.4 per 100 births between 1988 and 1998. During the same period, the rate of New Families at Risk grew slightly, by 5.4 percent. Between 1994 and 1999, the only custody rate to increase was for children and youth in custody due to abuse and neglect, which increased by 22.2 percent. Of confirmed victims of child maltreatment, only the rate of confirmed victims of neglect rose — by 16.7 percent between 1989 and 1999.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999–2000 school year, 23.3 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program were approved for school lunch program assistance, compared to the statewide average of 26.5 percent. Nearly 15 percent were approved for no-cost meals (eligibility based on family incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty threshold).

During the 1999-2000 school year, four schools in Addison County did not offer the NSL program and six schools did not offer School Breakfast. Among the total county student population, nearly 14 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program — the highest rate in the state — and almost 18 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of regulated child care slots in Addison County met only 45.1 percent of the estimated need for care.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	35	42			855	836
Average daily rate	4.0	4.9	22.2	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	12	11			262	356
Average daily rate	3.2	2.7	-13.0	+	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	25	19			359	299
Average daily rate	6.5	4.6	-29.0	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	58	44			1552	985
Rate	6.8	5.1	-24.9	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	20	5	-73.0	+	509	245
Rate	2.3	0.6			3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	28	26	-7.3	+	685	424
Rate	3.3	3.1			4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	14	16	16.7	-	488	384
Rate	1.6	1.9			3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Addison County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	359	79.3	324	86.5	9.2	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	22	4.6	28	7.4	59.8	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	5	9.7	3	8.0	-16.9	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	8	12.1	6	7.6	-36.8	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	37	25.0	25	17.4	-26.3	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	1	20.2	1	9.9	-51.2	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	2	54.2	1	46.8	-13.7	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	13	6.2	9	6.5	5.4	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	768	8.9	492	5.7	-36.0	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	1278	14.8	945	11.0	-25.7	+	17.7	14.4
	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Number	Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Number	Rate			2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	1167	23.3	736	14.7			26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1658	45.1	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	2469

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Bennington County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, four child health indicators showed improvement. Rates of teen violent deaths and child deaths both declined, and teen birth rates also dropped — by over 42 percent for younger teens (ages 15-17). In the period from 1989 to 1999, all forms of child maltreatment lessened — the overall rate of child abuse and neglect fell by over 25 percent. The largest drop in rates was for confirmed victims of child sexual abuse, which declined by over one-third. Similar to the statewide trend, the rate of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp Benefits decreased between 1994 and 1999.

Deteriorating Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, the low birth-weight rate rose from 3.3 percent to 6.1 percent, reflecting a statewide trend of rising rates. Bennington County's rate of expectant mothers seeking early prenatal care fell slightly, remaining the lowest in the state. Between 1994 and 1999, the rate for some cases of children and youth in custody rose, with the largest increase in the rate of delinquent youth in custody — by over 33 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, 25.6 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program were approved for school lunch program assistance, compared to the statewide average of 26.5 percent. Over twenty percent of all students were approved for no-cost meals.

During the 1999–2000 school year one school in Bennington County did not offer the NSL program and six schools did not offer the School Breakfast Program. Among the total county student population, 8.1 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program and 22.5 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of regulated child care slots in Bennington County was only able to provide 48.8 percent of the estimated need for child care.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	42	42		-	855	836
Average daily rate	4.7	4.9	9.2		5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	20	29		-	262	356
Average daily rate	5.1	6.8	33.5		4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	20	21		+	359	299
Average daily rate	5.0	4.9	-1.7		5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	80	57			1552	985
Rate	8.9	6.6	-25.8	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	17	14			509	245
Rate	1.9	1.7	-13.5	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	42	26			685	424
Rate	4.6	3.0	-34.4	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	28	19			488	384
Rate	3.1	2.2	-28.2	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Bennington County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)†	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	403	76.9	296	75.8	-1.4	-	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	18	3.3	24	6.1	81.4	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	3	6.3	4	10.2	62.8	-	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	20	29.0	13	16.6	-42.6	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	63	48.3	42	35.0	-27.6	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	1	14.2	1	9.8	-31.2	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	127.8	1	40.0	-68.7	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[3] Number	1998[3] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)†	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[3] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	20	9.7	15	9.7	0.1	same	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)†	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1241	13.9	955	11.0	-20.9	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	1689	18.8	1413	16.4	-12.8	+	17.7	14.4
	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program: Number	Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Number	Rate			2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	1300	25.6	1040	20.5			26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State		Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1809	48.8	48.9	Children with Special Health Needs	2378

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

† The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vermont Kids Count

Caledonia County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, many child health and safety indicators showed improvements that mirrored state trends. The rate of early prenatal care increased by 9.2 percent and the rates for child deaths and teen violent deaths also decreased. During the same period, teen birth rates declined — the birth rate for all teens (ages 15-19) by 28 percent and for young teens (ages 15–17) by over 39 percent. Child safety indicators revealed that, between 1989 and 1999, rates of confirmed victims of physical abuse dropped by 83.6 percent, the rate of victims of neglect declined by over 37 percent, and confirmed victims of sexual abuse decreased by almost 48 percent. From 1994 to 1999, Caledonia County's rate of unmanageable children in custody dropped by 21.3 percent, while the state average rate fell by 23 percent. During the same period, the rate of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamps declined by over 22 percent and by over 15 percent, respectively.

Deteriorating Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, the rate of low birth-weight babies increased by 25.2 percent, reflecting a statewide trend of rising rates. The rate of New Families at Risk rose by 14.3 percent. Between 1994 and 1999, the rate of delinquent youth in custody rose by 44.2 percent; abuse and neglect custody rose by over 20 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999–2000 school year, over 37 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program were approved for school lunch program assistance. The percent approved for no-cost meals was 26.5 percent, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999–2000 school year, one school in Caledonia County did not offer the NSL program and three schools did not offer the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Among the total county student population, just over one percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program and 32 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of regulated child care slots in Caledonia County met just 46 percent of the estimated need for child care.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	48	60			855	836
Average daily rate	6.2	8.2	20.1	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	8	12			262	356
Average daily rate	2.2	3.1	44.2	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	11	9			359	299
Average daily rate	3.0	2.4	-21.3	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1991-1993 [2] Average 1996-1998 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. Rates for delinquency and unmanageable custody is the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	71	42			1552	985
Rate	9.3	5.7	-38.7	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	20	13			509	245
Rate	2.6	0.4	-83.6	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	35	18			685	424
Rate	4.6	2.4	-47.9	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	23	14			488	384
Rate	3.0	1.9	-37.2	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Caledonia County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	310	80.1	268	85.8	9.2	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	19	4.8	19	6.0	25.2	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	3	7.5	2	7.5	-0.7	same	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	13	19.8	9	12.0	-39.6	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	46	41.9	32	30.1	-28.0	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	3	51.3	1	17.4	-66.1	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	2	74.0	1	30.2	-59.2	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988 Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	14	9.6	13	11.0	14.3	-	6.7	8.2

	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1141	14.7	845	11.4	-22.4	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	1728	22.3	1403	18.9	-15.2	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2030	37.3	1444	26.5	26.5	19.3

New KIDS COUNT Indicators	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1408	46.0	48.9	
Children with Special Health Needs				2033

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Chittenden County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, nearly all of the child health indicators showed improvement, including early prenatal care, infant mortality, child death, and teen violent death rates. The county's infant mortality rate dropped to below the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of 7 or fewer infant deaths for every 1000 births. Similar to the state trend, the rate of births to all teens declined, as did the rate of births to young teens (ages 15-17). The overall rate of confirmed victims of abuse and neglect dropped by 7.1 percent, the physical abuse victim rate decreased by almost 27 percent, and the rate of sexual abuse victims declined by 9.4 percent. Two economic measures showed significant changes — the rate of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp benefits dropped by 31.3 percent and by 20.1 percent, respectively.

Deteriorating Measures

Between 1994 and 1999, the rate of children and youth in custody rose in two categories: by over 61 percent for delinquent youth in custody, and by 42.7 percent for children in custody due to abuse and neglect. Low birth-weight rates also increased during the same period — by 22 percent. The rate of New Families at Risk grew by over 18 percent between 1988 and 1998. And the rate of confirmed victims of neglect increased in Chittenden County by over 27 percent from 1989 to 1999.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, 17.6 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program (NSL) were approved for school lunch program assistance. Nearly 13 percent were approved for no-cost meals, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999-2000 school year, all schools in Chittenden County offered the NSL program, but 22 schools did not offer the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Among the total county student population, nearly 44 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of regulated child care slots in Chittenden County met almost 65 percent of the estimated need for child care, providing the highest level in the state.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	165	198			855	836
Average daily rate	5.3	6.3	42.7	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	60	109			262	356
Average daily rate	4.6	7.4	61.4	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	105	89			359	299
Average daily rate	8.0	6.0	-24.5	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	303	289			1552	985
Rate	9.8	9.1	-7.1	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	96	72			509	245
Rate	3.1	2.3	-26.8	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	120	111			685	424
Rate	3.9	3.5	-9.4	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	96	125			488	384
Rate	3.1	4.0	27.5	-	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Chittenden County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	1495	83.2	1475	87.7	5.4	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	94	4.9	100	6.0	22.0	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	15	7.7	8	5.0	-42.0	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	43	17.0	32	12.5	-26.3	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	134	20.8	96	16.8	-19.2	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	7	28.0	5	19.8	-29.0	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	5	43.5	1	12.1	-72.1	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	44	5.3	45	6.3	18.3	-	6.7	8.2

	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	3516	11.2	2438	7.7	-31.3	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	4205	13.4	3412	10.7	-20.1	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	3807	17.6	2783	12.8	26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	8964	64.9	48.9	
Children with Special Health Needs				9456

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Essex/Orleans Counties

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, the rate of women receiving early prenatal care rose by 11.7 percent. Fewer young teens were having babies — the birth rate fell from 22.2 per 1,000 teens to 17.8 over the decade. Rates for both child deaths and teen violent deaths declined as well. 1998 saw fewer children living in families receiving ANFC benefits — the rate dropped by 16 percent. Child safety indicators showed substantial improvement in Essex/Orleans Counties from 1989 to 1999. The overall rate of confirmed victims of abuse and neglect dropped by almost 59 percent, the rate of physical abuse victims decreased by 60.5 percent, sexual abuse victims declined by nearly 62 percent, and victims of neglect dropped by over 62 percent. Counter to the statewide trend, the rate of delinquent youth in custody decreased from 1994 to 1999 — by almost 25 percent.

Deteriorating Measures

Between 1988 and 1998; the rate of New Families at Risk increased by 22.7 percent. The infant mortality rate grew from 4.9 per 1,000 births in 1988 to 7.5 per 1,000 in 1998, which, unfortunately, brought the Essex/Orleans rate above the Healthy Vermonters 2000 Goal of seven or fewer infant deaths per 1,000 births. Between 1994 and 1999, the rate of unmanageable youth in custody rose by over 45 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, almost 45 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program (NSL) were approved for school lunch program assistance. Nearly 34 percent were approved for no-cost meals, almost double the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999-2000 school year, all schools in Orleans County offered the NSL program, while three schools in Essex County did not. One school in Orleans County and three schools in Essex County did not offer the SBP. Among the total Orleans County student population, 9.6 percent did not have access to the SBP. Among the total Essex County student population 7.4 percent did not have access to the NSL and 9.1 percent did not have access to the SBP.

Regulated Child Care Need

The need for regulated child care far outweighs available resources in Essex/Orleans Counties. In 1998, 66 percent of infants and children estimated to need child care did not have access to regulated care.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	42	42			855	836
Average daily rate	4.9	5.2	20.7	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	16	8			262	356
Average daily rate	4.0	2.0	-24.8	+	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	15	19			359	299
Average daily rate	3.7	4.7	45.4	-	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	100	38			1552	985
Rate	11.5	4.7	-58.9	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	33	12			509	245
Rate	3.9	1.5	-60.5	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	44	16			685	424
Rate	5.1	1.9	-61.9	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	41	14			488	384
Rate	4.7	1.8	-62.6	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Essex/Orleans Counties

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	299	75.9	302	84.8	11.7	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	28	6.9	24	6.8	-0.7	+	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	2	4.9	3	7.5	53.0	-	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	16	22.2	14	17.8	-19.8	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	50	45.1	44	41.2	-8.7	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	2	34.5	1	16.4	-52.5	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	5	204.3	2	75.5	-63.1	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	15	9.5	17	11.7	22.7	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1378	16.2	1101	13.6	-16.0	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	2253	26.4	1926	23.9	-9.5	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2472	44.8	1859	33.7	26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1116	33.7	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	2107

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Franklin/ Grand Isle Counties

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, most child health indicators improved in Franklin/ Grand Isle Counties. The rate of women receiving early prenatal care rose by 14.6 percent, the infant mortality rate dropped by nearly 18 percent, and the teen violent death rate decreased as well. In addition, the rate of births to young teens (ages 15–17) declined by 21.9 percent and the rate of births to all teens dropped by over 7 percent. Nearly all child safety indicators showed improvement between 1989 and 1999, with rates for all forms of child maltreatment dropping by 55.6 percent. Custody rates also dropped. Between 1994 and 1997, abuse and neglect custody cases fell slightly, and unmanageable cases decreased by almost 32 percent. In the five years since 1994, the rate of children receiving ANFC benefits decreased by over 27 percent and the rate of children receiving Food Stamp benefits declined by almost
23 percent.

Deteriorating Measures

The only child health indicator to worsen between 1988 and 1998 was the low birth-weight rate — it rose by 6 percent. The rate of New Families at Risk increased by almost 41 percent. Between 1994 and 1999, rates of delinquent custody cases rose by 22.5 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999–2000 school year, 30.4 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program were approved for school lunch program assistance. Over 21 percent of students were approved for no-cost meals, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999–2000 school year, all schools in Franklin County offered the NSL program and the SBP, the only county in the state with universal access. All schools in Grand Isle County offered the NSL program and all but one school offered the SBP.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of regulated child care openings in Franklin/Grand Isle Counties met 40.4 percent of the estimated need for child care, falling lower than the statewide average.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	91	89			855	836
Average daily rate	6.7	6.4	-5.0	+	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	27	36			262	356
Average daily rate	4.4	5.4	22.5	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	44	34			359	299
Average daily rate	7.3	5.0	-31.7	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	175	83			1552	985
Rate	13.4	5.9	-55.6	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	56	23			509	245
Rate	4.3	1.6	-62.4	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	80	43			685	424
Rate	6.1	3.1	-50.0	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	59	24			488	384
Rate	4.5	1.7	-62.5	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Franklin/Grand Isle Counties

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[3] Number	1998[3] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[3] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	488	74.1	585	84.9	14.6	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	42	5.9	43	6.2	6.0	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	5	7.0	4	5.8	-17.7	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	20	19.7	19	15.4	-21.9	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	72	44.6	71	41.1	-7.8	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	2	23.2	2	18.4	-20.7	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	80.9	1	37.7	-53.4	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[3] Number	1998[3] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[3] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	17	7.1	27	10.0	40.9	-	6.7	8.2

	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1715	12.7	1219	9.2	-27.6	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	2552	18.9	2037	14.6	-22.8	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2853	30.4	1984	21.2	26.5	19.3

New KIDS COUNT Indicators	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	2403	40.4	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	3642

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Lamoille County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, five of the child health indicators improved in Lamoille County. The rate of women receiving early prenatal care increased, while the child death and teen violent death rates both dropped. The 1998 infant mortality rate met the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of seven or fewer deaths per 1,000 births. Between 1989 and 1999, the rates of all confirmed victims of abuse and neglect declined. Bucking the statewide trend of growing custody rates, between 1994 and 1999 Lamoille County's rate of children in custody for abuse and neglect decreased by 15.6 percent, and unmanageable cases dropped by almost 43 percent. The rate of children receiving ANFC benefits declined by 25.7 percent and the rate of children receiving Food Stamp benefits declined by 23.6 percent.

Deteriorating Measures

While young teen birth rates improved, the overall teen birth rate in Lamoille County rate rose by 9 percent, exceeding the statewide average. The rate of babies born with low birth weight also crept up slightly. The New Families at Risk indicator also increased — by over 32 percent. Between 1994 and 1999, the rate of youth in custody due to delinquency also grew by 8.1 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, over 29 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch (NSL) Program were approved for school lunch program assistance. Over 20 percent were approved for no–cost meals, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999–2000 school year, one school in Lamoille County did not offer the NSL program and four schools did not offer the SBP. Among the total county student population, less than one percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program but 26.5 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, fewer than 57 percent of children estimated to need child care had access to regulated care in Lamoille County.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	20	18			855	836
Average daily rate	3.8	3.3	-15.6	+	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	9	11			262	356
Average daily rate	4.0	4.3	8.1	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	10	7			359	299
Average daily rate	4.4	2.5	-42.8	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	38	19			1552	985
Rate	7.7	3.6	-53.5	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	13	6			509	245
Rate	2.5	1.0	-58.8	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	24	9			685	424
Rate	4.8	1.7	-50.9	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	11	5			488	384
Rate	2.3	1.0	-56.6	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Lamoille County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	216	80.2	210	78.1	-2.7	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	17	6.1	19	7.2	17.5	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	2	7.0	2	6.2	-12.0	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	7	19.5	8	18.3	-6.1	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	25	33.1	28	36.1	9.0	-	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	1	34.4	0	0.0	-100.0	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	1	62.9	1	60.3	-4.0	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	10	8.5	13	11.3	32.2	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	565	10.9	439	8.1	-25.7	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	923	17.8	739	13.6	-23.6	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	1100	29.4	775	20.7	26.5	19.3

New KIDS COUNT Indicators	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1035	43.5	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	1527

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vermont Kids Count

Orange County

Improving Measures

All but one of the county child health indicators showed improving rates by 1998. In the previous decade, the early prenatal care rate increased from 80.9 percent to 88.8 percent, becoming the highest in the state and nearly meeting the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of 90 percent. In addition, the infant mortality rate was substantially below the statewide average, and the rates of births to all teens and young teens (ages 15-17) dropped by over 29 percent, and by 48.7 percent, respectively. Between 1989 and 1999, child maltreatment rates continued to drop, with the greatest decline in rates of physical abuse — a drop of 63.2 percent. In economic security measures, the percent of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp benefits fell from 1994 to 1999, mirroring the statewide trend.

Deteriorating Measures

The low birth-weight rate increased slightly in Orange County, while the rate of New Families at Risk also rose. Custody rates rose in two categories — abused and neglected children in custody, and delinquents in custody.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999–2000 school year, 33.6 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program (NSL) were approved for school lunch program assistance. Over 23 percent were approved for no-cost meals, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999–2000 school year, only one school in Orange County did not offer the NSL program and four schools did not offer School Breakfast. Among the total county student population, 2.3 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program and 33.3 percent did not have access to the SBP.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of available regulated child care slots met about 34 percent of the estimated need for child care in Orange County, well below the state average of 48.9 percent.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	24	31			855	836
Average daily rate	3.3	4.3	31.1	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	4	8			262	356
Average daily rate	1.3	2.3	78.3	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	12	9			359	299
Average daily rate	3.5	2.5	-28.5	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	74	37			1552	985
Rate	10.3	5.1	-50.2	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	23	8			509	245
Rate	3.2	1.2	-63.2	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	41	23			685	424
Rate	5.7	3.2	-44.7	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	11	9			488	384
Rate	1.6	1.3	-20.5	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Orange County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	282	80.9	251	88.8	9.8	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	23	6.2	18	6.4	3.1	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	4	11.6	1	4.7	-59.4	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	11	20.4	7	10.5	-48.7	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	32	36.5	24	25.9	-29.1	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	2	36.3	2	36.0	-0.9	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	133.4	1	48.3	-63.8	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	8	5.7	9	8.4	46.3	-	6.7	8.2

	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1998[4] Number	1998[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	854	11.6	571	8.0	-31.0	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	1329	18.1	991	13.9	-23.2	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance: Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance: Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	1736	33.6	1212	23.5	26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State		Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	1024	33.9	48.9	Children with Special Health Needs	1933

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Rutland County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, four of the seven child health measures showed improvement in Rutland County. The rate of early prenatal care rose by 2.6 percent, the infant mortality rate dropped by 50 percent, and the teen violent death rate declined as well. Rates for all but one of the child safety indicators showed declines. The rates of all forms of child abuse and neglect dropped from 1989 to 1999. While sexual abuse rates remain higher than other forms of maltreatment, the rates of confirmed sexual abuse victims fell by one-third, a larger decline than any other category. The percent of children receiving Food Stamp and ANFC benefits also decreased — by over 22 percent for ANFC — between 1994 and 1999.

Deteriorating Measures

Families facing multiple economic barriers increased, as measured in the rates of New Families at Risk. The child death rate rose during the decade, as did the low birth-weight rate, which grew from 5.5 to 6.5 percent of all babies in Rutland County. In addition, the average daily rate of delinquent youth in custody rose by over 21 percent between 1994 and 1999.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, 28 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program were approved to receive this assistance. Over 21 percent were approved for no-cost meals, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999-2000 school year, one school in Rutland County did not offer the NSL program and six schools did not offer the SBP. Among the total county student population, less than 1 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program and nearly 18 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, fewer than 42 percent of young children estimated to need child care had access to regulated care in Rutland County.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	66	55			855	836
Average daily rate	4.4	3.8	-12.8	+	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	27	37			262	356
Average daily rate	4.3	5.3	21.4	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	31	33		+	359	299
Average daily rate	5.0	4.6	-7.5		5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	121	85			1552	985
Rate	8.0	5.9	-25.9	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	30	20			509	245
Rate	2.0	1.4	-29.2	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	61	39			685	424
Rate	4.0	2.7	-33.0	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	37	28			488	384
Rate	2.4	2.0	-19.1	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Rutland County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988 Number	1988 Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	632	77.5	532	79.5	2.6	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	47	5.5	44	6.5	19.3	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	9	10.1	3	5.0	-50.8	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	18	14.2	19	14.5	2.3	-	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	76	31.3	62	29.8	-4.6	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	3	28.5	5	41.0	43.6	-	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	69.7	2	47.7	-31.5	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	21	5.8	26	9.2	57.5	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	2160	14.4	1600	11.2	-22.2	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	2927	19.5	2494	17.4	-10.8	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2897	28.0	2223	21.5	26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	2550	41.2	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	3988

1 = Average of years 1986 - 1988
2 = Average of years 1996- 1998
3 = Average of years 1992 - 1994
4 = Average of years 1997 - 1999
** = Single year*

† The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
*** = Single school year*

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Washington County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, many of the county's child health measures improved. The prenatal care rate rose from 82.5 percent to a rate of 87.7 percent. The teen birth rate declined, as did rates of child deaths and teen violent deaths. Between 1989 and 1999, the overall rates of confirmed victims of maltreatment — physical, sexual and neglect — dropped by over 42 percent. Rates of children and youth in custody also saw improvements — average daily caseload rates for both "unmanageable" cases and children in custody due to abuse and neglect decreased between 1994 and 1999. The rate of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp benefits declined by nearly 28 percent and by over 22 percent, respectively.

Deteriorating Measures

The infant mortality rate rose from 6.5 per 1,000 births, to 13.8 per 1,000. Similar to the statewide trend, the rate of low birth-weight babies increased between 1988 and 1998, from 5.7 to 6.9 percent. The rate of New Families at Risk also grew during this period. Mirroring statewide trends, delinquent custody rates also rose — by over 52 percent.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, over one in five students were approved for school lunch program assistance. Fewer than 17 percent were approved for no-cost assistance, compared to the statewide average of 19.3 percent.

During the 1999–2000 school year, all Washington County schools offered the NSL program and only two schools did not offer the SBP. Among the total county student population, 2.5 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the number of available regulated child care slots met more than 55 percent of the estimated need for child care in Washington County, the second highest rate in Vermont.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	79	67			855	836
Average daily rate	5.7	5.0	-12.5	+	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	28	45			262	356
Average daily rate	4.4	6.8	52.6	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanagtable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	19	13			359	299
Average daily rate	2.9	1.9	-34.8	+	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	200	109			1552	985
Rate	14.2	8.1	-42.8	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	71	24			509	245
Rate	5.1	1.8	-65.3	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	95	50			685	424
Rate	6.7	3.7	-44.8	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	64	47			488	384
Rate	4.6	3.5	-29.4	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Washington County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1997[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	615	82.5	531	87.7	6.2	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	44	5.7	42	6.9	19.9	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	5	6.5	8	13.8	111.4	-	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	17	14.9	13	10.8	-27.5	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	59	31.5	48	28.3	-10.3	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	3	30.4	2	15.8	-47.9	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	72.8	2	51.8	-28.9	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	17	5.6	18	6.9	23.4	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1714	12.2	1185	8.8	-27.9	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	2297	16.4	1712	12.7	-22.6	+	17.7	14.4

	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate	2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2263	23.6	1060	16.8	26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	3162	55.3	48.9

	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Children with Special Health Needs	3693

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Vermont Kids Count

Windham County

Improving Measures

Between 1988 and 1998, all but one child health measure showed improvement, including the rates of child deaths and teen violent deaths, infant mortality, and births to all teens. Although the rate of early prenatal care showed improvement, Windham County remained one of four counties with rates under 80 percent. Similar to the state trend, from 1989 to 1999, the number and rates of confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in all categories decreased in Windham County. The rate of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp benefits declined by nearly 37 percent and by 19.1 percent, respectively, from 1994 to 1999.

Deteriorating Measures

Similar to the state trend of rising low birth-weight rates, the Windham County rate increased by 12.9 percent between 1988 and 1998. Economic indicators revealed a rise in the rate of New Families at Risk — by just over 15 percent. The rates of children and youth in custody in all categories increased between 1994 and 1999. This was most noticeable for custody cases due to abuse and neglect, which rose by over 80 percent, to 6.7 per 1,000 youth in 1999, exceeding the state average.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, 26.7 percent of students attending schools offering the NSL Program were approved for school lunch program assistance. Nearly 20 percent were approved for no-cost meals.

During the 1999–2000 school year, nine schools in Windham County did not offer the NSL program and 12 schools did not offer the SBP. Among the total county student population, nearly 13 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program — the second highest percentage in the state — and nearly 22 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, nearly 51 percent of children estimated to need child care had access to regulated care in Windham County.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	40	68			855	836
Average daily rate	3.7	6.7	81.0	-	5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	18	25			262	356
Average daily rate	3.9	5.0	29.0	-	4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	15	20			359	299
Average daily rate	3.2	4.0	23.9	-	5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	160	83			1552	985
Rate	15.2	8.2	-46.0	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	57	22			509	245
Rate	5.4	2.2	-59.3	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	65	26			685	424
Rate	4.9	2.5	-51.8	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	61	42			488	384
Rate	58	4.1	-29.4	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Windham County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1997[3] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	441	74.6	368	78.1	4.7	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	34	5.6	30	6.3	12.9	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	9	15.2	4	7.8	-48.9	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	18	22.0	9	10.0	-54.5	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	60	45.2	39	30.2	-33.2	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	2	20.5	1	16.8	-18.1	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	2	73.9	0	0.0	-100.0	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	18	7.4	16	8.5	15.1	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1455	13.6	867	8.6	-36.8	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	1953	18.3	1497	14.8	-19.1	+	17.7	14.4
	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Assistance Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate			2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	1603	26.7	1191	19.8			26.5	19.3

KIDS COUNT Data Center	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State	Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233	
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	2196	50.9	48.9	Children with Special Health Needs	2727

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vermont Kids Count

Windsor County

Improving Measures

Most child health indicators showed improvement between 1988 and 1998. The infant mortality rate declined from 8.4 to 3.1 per 1,000 births — far below the Healthy Vermonters 2000 goal of 7 or below. The overall teen birth rate decreased by over 15 percent. From 1989 to 1999, all of the abuse and neglect rates declined in Windsor County. The rates of children receiving ANFC and Food Stamp benefits decreased between 1994 and 1999.

Deteriorating Measures

The only child health indicator that worsened was the rate of low birth-weight babies. Children born underweight rose from 4.2 to 5.4 percent of all newborns. All rates of custody showed increases; the rate of delinquent youth in custody more than doubled, but still remained at half of the state average.

Single-Year Indicators

National School Lunch (NSL) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Assistance

During the 1999-2000 school year, 24.5 percent of students attending schools offering the National School Lunch Program (NSL) were approved for school lunch program assistance. Over 18 percent were approved for no-cost meals, lower than the state average of 19.3.

During the 1999-2000 school year, five schools in Windsor County did not offer the NSL program and 12 schools did not offer the SBP. Among the total county student population, 6.8 percent did not have access to the National School Lunch Program and nearly 29 percent did not have access to the School Breakfast Program.

Regulated Child Care Need

In 1998, the available regulated child care openings met over 42 percent of the estimated need for child care in Windsor County.

Children and Youth in Custody

	1994[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1994[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Abuse/Neglect Custody Cases						
Average daily number	85	89		-	855	836
Average daily rate	6.3	6.7	6.3		5.9	5.9
Delinquent Custody Cases						
Average daily number	6	16		-	262	356
Average daily rate	1.0	2.4	136.1		4.1	5.1
Unmanageable Custody Cases						
Average daily number	17	21		-	359	299
Average daily rate	2.8	3.2	13.3		5.6	4.3

[1] Average 1992-1994 [2] Average 1997-1999 Rate for abuse and neglect custody is the average daily number of children per 1,000 children under 18. The other rates are based on the average daily number of youths per 1,000 youth ages 10-17.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Confirmed victims of child abuse by type

	1989[1]	1999[2]	Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)	Vermont 1989[1]	Vermont 1999[2]
Child Abuse and Neglect						
Total Confirmed Victims	174	96			1552	985
Rate	12.9	7.2	-44.1	+	10.8	6.9
Physical Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	73	26			509	245
Rate	5.5	1.9	-64.5	+	3.6	1.7
Sexual Abuse						
Confirmed Victims	65	38			685	424
Rate	4.9	2.9	-40.9	+	4.8	3.0
Neglect						
Neglect Victims	43	41			488	384
Rate	3.2	3.1	-3.2	+	3.4	2.7

[1] Average of 1987-1989 [2] Average of 1997-1999 Rate = Number of victims per 1,000 children under 18

Windsor County

Child and Youth Health Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 Percent change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
Early Prenatal Care	565	80.4	460	85.5	6.4	+	79.4	84.4
Low Birth-Weight Babies	31	4.2	29	5.4	31.2	-	5.2	6.3
Infant Mortality (per 1,000)	6	8.4	2	3.1	-63.0	+	8.4	6.8
Births to Teens 15-17 (per 1,000)	15	14.5	13	10.8	-25.2	+	18.0	12.9
Births to All Teens (per 1,000)	52	31.6	43	26.8	-15.3	+	32.1	27.1
Child Deaths (per 100,000)	4	35.0	4	34.5	-1.5	+	28.9	21.2
Teen Violent Deaths (per 100,000)	3	87.3	2	68.1	-21.9	+	77.3	37.2

Economic Indicators

	1988[1] Number	1988[1] Rate	1998[2] Number	1998[2] Rate	1988-1998 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1988[1] Vermont Rate	1998[2] Vermont Rate
New Families at Risk	19	6.5	16	7.3	13.5	-	6.7	8.2
	1994[3] Number	1994[3] Rate	1999[4] Number	1999[4] Rate	1994-1999 % change in rate	Improved (+) Worsened (-)[†]	1994[3] Vermont Rate	1999[4] Vermont Rate
Children Receiving ANFC	1732	12.9	1087	8.2	-36.4	+	12.7	9.1
Children Receiving Food Stamps	2285	17.0	1718	12.9	-24.1	+	17.7	14.4
	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Number	2000** All Students Approved for School Lunch Program Rate	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Number	2000** Students Approved for No-Cost School Lunch Assistance Rate			2000** Vermont Rate	2000** Vermont Rate
Students Approved for School Lunch Program	2180	24.5	1565	18.2			26.5	19.3

NEW KIDS COUNT INDICATORS	1998 Regulated Child Care Slots	Meets Estimated Need	1998* State		Estimated Numbers Based on Incidence of 0.233
Regulated Child Care Need Estimated Need vs. Availability	2407	42.2	48.9	Children with Special Health Needs	3560

[1] = Average of years 1986 - 1988
[2] = Average of years 1996- 1998
[3] = Average of years 1992 - 1994
[4] = Average of years 1997 - 1999
* = Single year

[†] The (+) or (-) designation for each indicator shows rates which have improved or worsened between the years compared in the Percent Change in Rate.
** = Single school year

Rates for most of the indicators listed in these tables are expressed as percentages (per 100). However, rates for some of the indicators are presented using different methods because percentages would show very small values.

Notes on Statistics and Methodology

Abuse/Neglect Custody
Data on "children in custody as a result of abuse or neglect" were provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Child population data are from the Vermont Department of Health estimates taken between Census surveys. The number of abused and neglected children in custody represents an average daily number of custody cases, averaged again for the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1997, 1998, 1999. SRS determines average daily custody cases by calculating the number of custody days (days between opening and closing dates) for each case, totaling the number of custody days for all cases, and dividing by the number of days in the year.

Annual numbers of average daily custody cases were averaged by Vermont KIDS COUNT for the years 1992-1994 and 1997-1999. Average daily rates of abused and neglected children in custody were calculated by adding the average daily number of custody cases for the two time periods, and dividing by the sum of child population totals for the corresponding years. The resulting proportion was then multiplied by 1,000 to show the rate of abused and neglected children in custody, per 1,000 children under 18. Previous data books used the multiplier of 10,000.

Available Child Care vs. Need
Data on the number of regulated child care openings were obtained from the Office of Child Care Services, Vt. Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, for 1998. They estimated need, based on 55 percent of the population of children age 13 and under. Population data are from Vt. Department of Health estimates for intercensal years. The percent of child care needs being met by regulated care openings was calculated by dividing the number of openings by the estimated need, multiplied by 100.

Births to Teens, and to Young Teens
Data on births to teens were obtained from vital statistics files from the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy. Births to all teens are defined as live births that occur to women aged 15 to 19. Data are reported by the mother's residence. The number of births to teens represents a three-year average. The method for calculating teen birth rate in this *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book* is different from previous data books. The teen birth rate was calculated by summing the births over a three-year period, dividing by the total female teen population aged 15-19 for that same period, and multiplying by 1,000. Data on births to young teens uses the same method, but is based on a three-year average of number of births to teens aged 15-17, divided by the female teen population aged 15-17, and multiplied by 1,000. Previous data books used the multiplier of 100.

Child Abuse and Neglect
Child abuse data were provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Child population data used in the calculation of rates are from Vt. Department of Health estimates for intercensal years. Child abuse cases are defined as substantiated cases of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect involving children under age 18. The number of child abuse cases represents a three-year average (1989 = 1987-89 and 1999 = 1997-1999). Because the substantiated status of abuse/neglect reports may change over time, data here are adjusted to reflect reported state totals of substantiated victims, as of March for each year used in the three-year averages. Child abuse rates were calculated by using the number of child abuse cases in a three-year period, divided by the total of the child population for the corresponding years. The calculated proportion was multiplied by 1,000 to show the child abuse rate per 1,000 children under 18. Note: Previous data books used the multiplier of 10,000.

Calculations for separate categories of abuse or neglect are calculated as above, using the total number of specific type (total of physical abuse, total of sexual abuse and total of neglect cases) divided by the total child population for the corresponding years.

Child Deaths
Data on child deaths were taken from vital statistics of the Vermont

Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy. Child population data used in the calculation of rates were taken Vermont Department of Health population estimates for intercensal years. Child deaths include deaths from all causes, to children ages one to 14. The number of child deaths is shown as a three-year average. The total number of child deaths in a three-year period was divided by the sum of the child populations for the corresponding years. The calculated proportion was multiplied by 100,000 to show the child death rate per 100,000 children ages, one through 14.

Child Population
Data on child population are from Vt. Health Department population estimates for intercensal years. The number of children is defined as the total resident population under 18.

Child Poverty
The data series for child poverty used in this year's *Data Book* differs from the one used for previous data books. The data are based on information from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) series of the U.S. Census Bureau, which provides annual state-level estimates of income and poverty and county-level estimates every other year. SAIPE estimates are used nationally for determining Title 1 (U.S. Education Department) funds distribution.

Percent of children in poverty is the share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The estimates for child poverty are based on statistical modeling and represent a three-year average. Since the estimates are not based on direct counts, county estimates should not be compared. (Each estimated number and rate has a 90 percent confidence interval.) The estimates were downloaded from the U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts web site on October 30, 2001, at http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/50/50001.html. Detailed information on methodology used can be accessed through that site.

Children in Households Receiving ANFC Benefits
The Vermont Department of Social Welfare provided data for children in households receiving ANFC benefits. Child population data were used in the denominator for rate calculations, and were obtained from Vermont Department of Health estimates for intercensal years. The number of children in households receiving ANFC benefits refers to "snapshots" of April 1994 and April 1999. The percent of children in households receiving ANFC Benefits is calculated as the number of children in these households, divided by the total child population, and multiplied by 100.

Children in Households Receiving Food Stamp Benefits
Same as above, but substitute Food Stamps for ANFC.

Children with Special Health Needs
The estimated number of children with special health needs is based on Vermont Department of Health population estimates for intercensal years, using an estimated incidence rate from the Vermont Division of Health Care Administration (VDHCA).

A definition of Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN) was developed by VDHCA to help estimate the rate of children with disabilities. CSHN are defined as those under age 21 who have physical, cognitive, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that meet one of five criteria determined by VDHCA. (For more information, contact the Division of Health Care Administration at 828-2900 for a copy of the report that presented their findings, Issues and Limitations in Applying a Definition of Children with Special Health Needs to Claims Based Data.)

Using Vermont claims data for children diagnosed with disabilities, the VDHCA estimated that the state incidence was 233 of every 1,000 young people under 21, or .233. In calculating the county estimates for the *2001 Vermont KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the Vermont Children's Forum multiplied this state rate (.233) by the estimated 1998 county populations of people under age 21.

Method Limitations for estimating CSHN
Using a state rate to calculate county estimates obscures the differences that may actually occur in the level of incidence from county to county. In addition, the resulting rough estimates should be used with caution because they are likely to overstate the incidence of young people with disabilities. The VDHCA reports this is because of limitations in applying the definition of special health needs to claims data. Confidentiality requirements prevent access to individual records, which makes it impossible to determine a child's progress over time or to check for duplicated cases (created by claims for patients with mul-

tiple sources of coverage). As a result, some young people may be counted twice.

Delinquent or Unmanageable Youth in Custody
The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) provided data on delinquent or unmanageable youth in custody. Population data used in rate calculations are from Vermont Department of Health estimates between Census surveys. The number of delinquent or unmanageable youth in custody represents an average daily number of custody cases averaged again for the years 1992-1994 and 1997-1999. SRS determines average daily custody cases by calculating the number of custody days (days between opening and closing dates) for each case, adding custody days for all cases, and dividing by the number of days in the year. Annual numbers of average daily custody cases were averaged for the years 1992-1994 and 1997-1999. Average daily rates of delinquent or unmanageable youth in custody were calculated by adding the average daily number of custody cases for the two time periods, and dividing by the sum of population totals of youth, ages 10-17 for the corresponding years. The resulting proportion was then multiplied by 1,000 to show the rate of delinquent or unmanageable youth in custody, per 1,000 youth between 10 and 17. Note: Previous data books used the multiplier of 10,000.

Early Prenatal Care
Data on early prenatal care were obtained from Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy vital statistics files. Early prenatal care is defined as prenatal care received within the first trimester (three months) of pregnancy. Data are reported by the mother's residence. The number of mothers receiving early prenatal care is shown as a three-year average. The number of mothers who received early prenatal care was added for three-year periods and divided by the total number of live births, for which prenatal care information was available. The resulting proportions were multiplied by 100 to indicate the percent of all mothers who received early prenatal care.

Families with Children, Headed by a Single Parent
This indicator is the percentage of all families with "own children" under age 18 living in the household, that are headed by a person — male or female — without a spouse present in the home. "Own children" are never-married children under 18 who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. This indicator is different from the one used in previous data books, which calculated the rate of children living in single-parent families. The data is based on estimates from the sample-based Current Population Survey, using a three-year average. Like all estimates derived from samples, these figures contain some amount of random error.

Infant Mortality
Data for infant mortality were compiled using vital statistics files of the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy. Infant deaths include all deaths of babies less than one year of age. The number of infant deaths is shown as a three-year average. Infant mortality rates were calculated using the total number of infant deaths for three-year periods divided by the total number of live births for the same periods and the calculated proportion was multiplied by 1,000 to show the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Low Birth-Weight Babies
Data for low birth-weight babies were compiled using Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy vital statistics files. Low birth weight was defined as less than 5 ½ pounds (2500 grams), and data were reported by mother's residence. The number of low birth-weight babies represents a three-year average. The total numbers of low birth-weight babies born in the three-year periods, were added and then divided by the total number of live births for which birth weight information was available in the corresponding time periods. The calculated proportions were multiplied by 100 to indicate the percent of all babies that were born of low birth weight.

New Families at Risk
Data for this indicator were compiled from vital statistics files of the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy. First births to unmarried women under the age of 20, with less than 12 years of schooling, represent the formation of "high-risk" families. The number of first births with these three risk factors is expressed as a three-year average. The total number of first births with three risk factors was summed for the three-year periods and used in the numerator for rate calculations. The total number of all first birth, for which complete data on mother's age, education, and marital status were available, was used in the denominator. The calculated proportion was multiplied by 100, to show the percent of all new families formed at high socioeconomic risk.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Students Approved for Free and Reduced Lunches
Data on school meals programs were provided by the Vermont Department of Education, and represent the number and percent of public school students approved for free and reduced lunches in school year 1999-2000. Percentages were calculated by dividing the number of children approved for free and reduced lunches by total enrollment of schools participating in the school lunch program and multiplying by 100.

Teen Violent Deaths
Data for teen violent deaths were compiled from death record files provided by the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Public Health Analysis and Policy. Population data used in the calculation of rates were taken from intercensal population estimates provided by the Vermont Department of Health. Teen violent deaths are defined as deaths of teens ages 15 through 19 that occurred by accident, suicide, or homicide. The number of teen violent deaths is shown as a three-year average. The total numbers of teen violent deaths that occurred during three-year periods were added and divided by the total number of teens in the 15-19 age group for the corresponding years. The calculated proportion was multiplied by 100,000, to show the rate of violent deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15 through 19.

Teens Not In School and Not in the Labor Force
Data for the number and percent of teens not in school and not in the labor force are based on analysis of the Current Population Survey, which is a sample-based estimate. The yearly average was calculated based on data for the 9 months students are typically enrolled in school. Teens included in this indicator are those between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not enrolled in school (full or part-time); not in the labor force; and not in the Armed Forces. The percent of these teens was calculated using the population ages 16 through 19 in the denominator and multiplying by 100. Rate is expressed in a three-year average. Like all estimates derived from samples, these figures contain some amount of random error.

Women in the Labor Force, with Children Under Age 6
This indicator measures the number and percent of women ages 16 and over (regardless of marital status) who are in the paid labor force, with children is under age 6. Data for the number and percent of women in the labor force with children under age 6 are from the Census for 1990, representing a single year of data; 1996 March Current Population Survey (representing the average of years 1994-1996); and 1998 (average of years 1996-1998). Rates were calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. (E-mail correspondence with Amy Caiazza, IWPR, January 2001.)

Women in the Labor Force, with Children Under Age 18
This indicator measures the number and percent of women ages 16 and over (regardless of marital status) who are in the paid labor force, with children under age 18. Data for the number and percent of women in the labor force with children under age 18 are from the Census for 1990, representing a single year of data; 1996 (representing the average of years 1994-1996 March Current Population Survey); and 1998 (average of years 1996-1998 CPS). Rates were calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. (E-mail correspondence with Amy Caiazza, IWPR, January 2001.)

Acknowledgements

Vermont KIDS COUNT could not have succeeded without the contributions of state agency colleagues who provided their time, expertise, and source materials to the Vermont Children's Forum.

In particular, special thanks go to David Murphey, Senior Policy Analyst with the Agency of Human Services, who provided valuable assistance in collecting county-level data from AHS divisions and from United States data housed with the Vermont Department of Health. We also are grateful for the assistance of Michael Nyland-Funke, Health Surveillance Biostatistician, Vermont Department of Health; Robin Martin-Wall, Senior Research and Statistics Analyst, Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition and Health Access; Jo Busha, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs, Department of Education; and Kim Keiser, Director of the Child Care Services Division of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Credits

Data Collection and Analysis
Carlen Finn and Beth Burgess

Writers
Carlen Finn and Beth Burgess

Design
Tim Newcomb, Editing and Design Publication Services

Student Contributions
Lydia Ducharme, Hardwick, 2001
Worcester Elementary School Students, 1998
Archival KIDS COUNT art work from students statewide

Cover art:
Lydia Newcomb, Worcester, 1998

Vermont Children's Forum

Board of Directors

Nancy Kaplan, MS
President

Elaine Alfano
Vice President

Heidi Klein, MPH
Secretary

Ronnie Kopec, RN, MS, CNA
Treasurer

Mark Billian
David Connor
Robert Costantino, MPH
Judy Dickson, Esq.
Jeanne Greenblatt, MD, MPH
Virginia Renfrew
Robert Sheil, Esq.
Elizabeth Slayton
Douglas Wilhelm

Staff

Carlen Finn
Executive Director

Beth Burgess
Research Coordinator

Karen Ducharme
Vermont Community Leadership Coordinator

Barbara Postman
Rural Education Project Coordinator

Sheila Reed, Esq.
Legislative and Community Advocacy Coordinator

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Vermont
Children's Forum
P.O. Box 261
[illegible]

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

☒ This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.

☐ This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").

EFF-089 (3/2000)

PS030265